



YOU COULD BE A WINNER IN THE
SECOND **SUPERMAN** MOVIE CONTEST!
DETAILS INSIDE!

NOW
40¢

NO. 492
FEB.

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



GREAT KRYPTON! MY
WIFE AND CHILDREN--
DYING!

AND I
CAUSED IT!

TIME: THE FUTURE!
PLACE: **SUPERMAN'S** HOME!
OCCASION: HIS BIRTHDAY!
THE SURPRISE GUEST:
DEATH!



5-3051

ANDRU
& GIARDINO

READ WHY TCR[®] IS AMERICA'S MOST EXCITING SLOTLESS RACING SYSTEM.



Last year when we introduced TCR[®] it quickly became the most popular slotless racing system in America. And this year, we've made the #1 system better.

SLOTLESS TRACK.

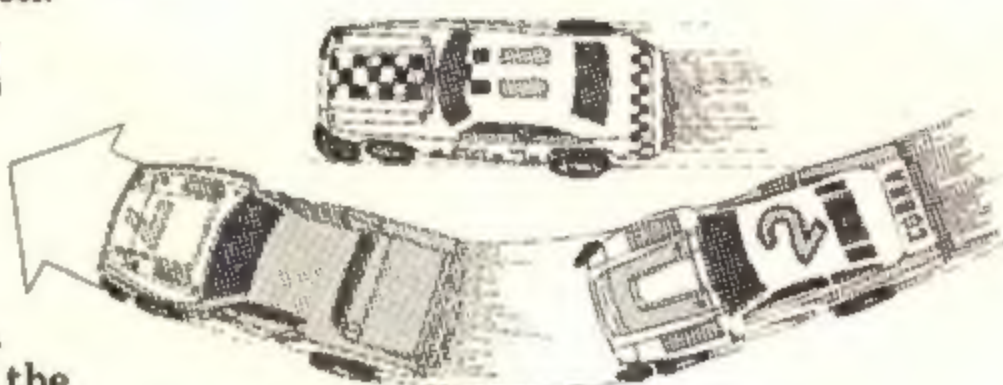
No slots. No lane dividers. TCR's designed for wide open racing, with cars free to pass on the left or right.

SPEED ON THE CURVES/STAY ON THE TRACK.

90° curves engineered so TCR cars stay on the track even at scale speeds of 275 MPH, without t-bars or tunnels to hide the action.

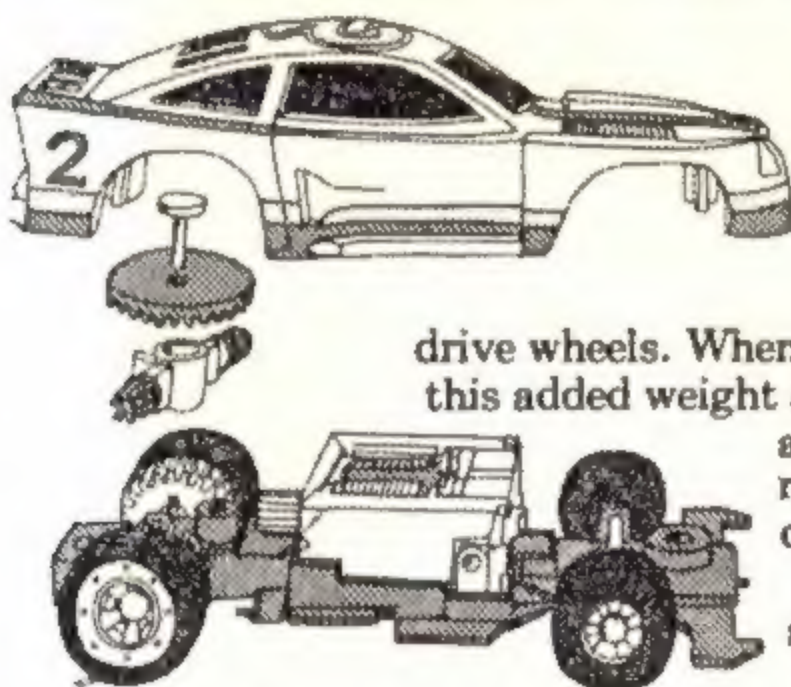
PASSING.

Realistic passing on the left or right. Your car can swing out of one lane, accelerate past the slower car, then tuck back into the original lane. That's realistic passing!



REALISTIC ACCELERATION/DECELERATION.

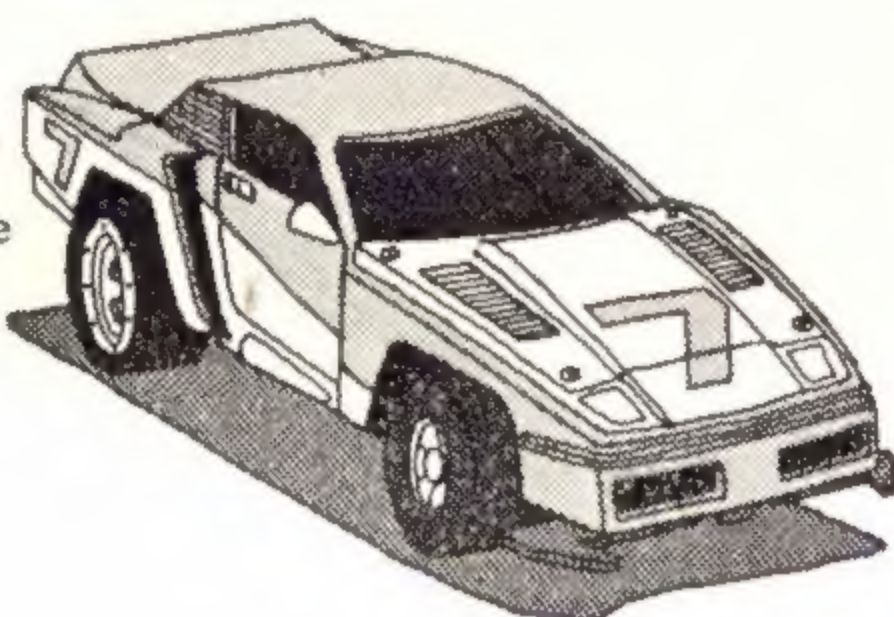
TCR cars are equipped with die cast metal drive wheels. When you hit the Speed Trigger, this added weight allows realistic acceleration and deceleration. Just like a real racer. And because your car responds so quickly, you have to constantly plan ahead to stay out of trouble.



THE DRIVE TRAIN. It's dual-shifting, which allows the power to go from one rear wheel to the other. It's the TCR innovation that lets you pass left or right.

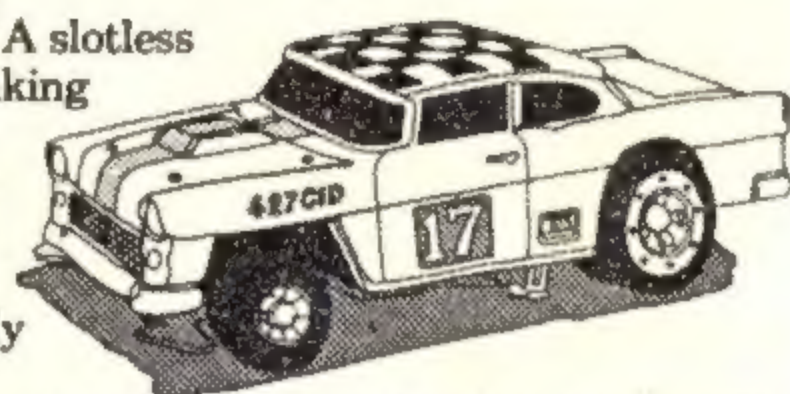
HO SCALE.

Each car is modeled with authentic detail. But don't let the good looks fool you. Because these cars are ruggedly constructed for racing at scale speeds of 275 MPH!



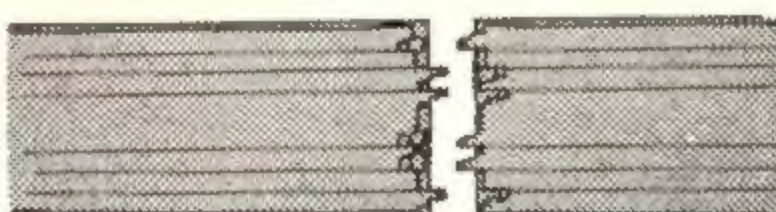
THE JAM CAR.[™]

A slotless third car on the track. Taking its power from the track, the Jam Car moves independently, at two-thirds the speed of the driver controlled cars, constantly circling the track like a pack of lapped cars. It's like a car in trouble that tests your passing skills, lap after lap...and only TCR's got it.



THE TRACK/QUICK ASSEMBLY.

A cinch to put together. Within five minutes you



can be ready to race. And TCR track is just as easy to take apart. But once it's together, the connections are so secure you can concentrate on more important things — like racing.

THE LANE CHANGING SWITCH.

Hit it and your car digs out to pass. With no break in power, no loss of speed.



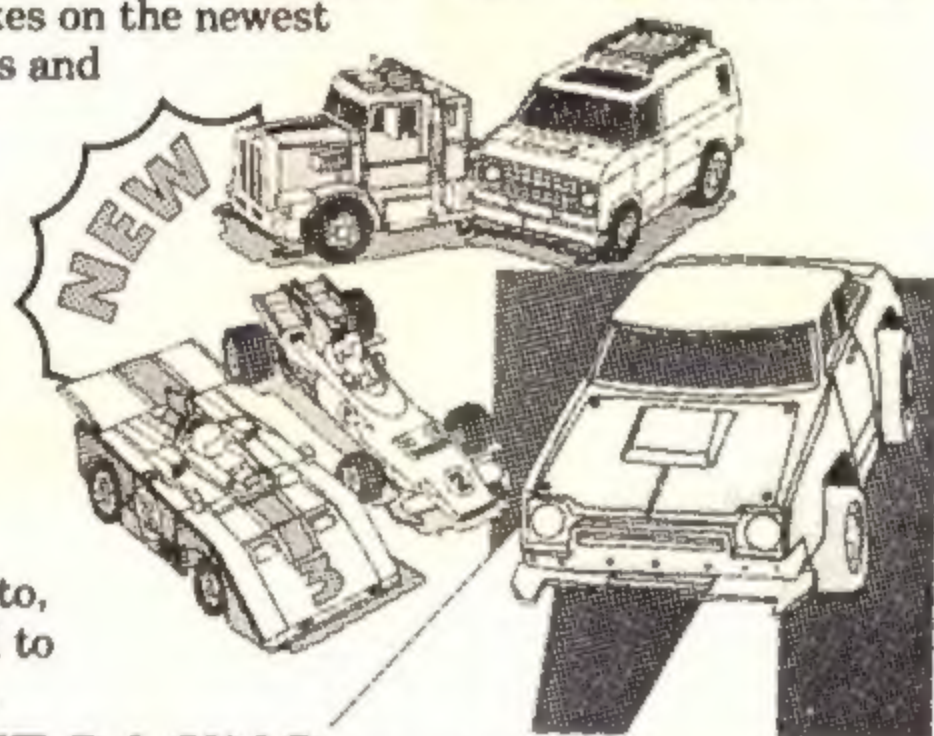
THE SPEED TRIGGER.

Depress it, like the gas pedal, and your car speeds up realistically. Let off, and your car does too, coasting like a real road racer.

NEW: TRUCK RACING RIGS,[™] VANS,[™] PRO AMS[™] & FORMULAS.

This year TCR takes on the newest racing craze — vans and truck racing rigs.

As well as the popular Pro Ams, Formulas, Stocks and Rat Traps.[®] That's not all, TCR even offers a two Jam Car set, so now, whatever style of racing you're into, TCR's got a model to keep up with you.



NEW: NIGHT RACING. The Lighted Blazers,[™] with headlights that allow both day and night racing. In addition to headlights, these new cars come equipped with special phosphorescent bodies that glow in the dark and fluorescent billboards to add excitement to the background.

8 DIFFERENT SETS. Not everyone's into the same kind of race, so TCR gives you a choice. Ask your local TCR Dealer to show you his selection.

TCR[®]
TOTAL CONTROL RACING[™]

© Ideal Toy Corporation 1978, 300 Fifth Avenue North, New York, New York 10010

ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS! IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED TV NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH--AND BEYOND--AS...



WHIRLING THROUGH THE VAST BLACK INFINITY OF SPACE, IT SPIRALS ON... ALWAYS SEARCHING, SEEKING THE SUSTENANCE IT SO DESPERATELY NEEDS... FOR SURVIVAL!

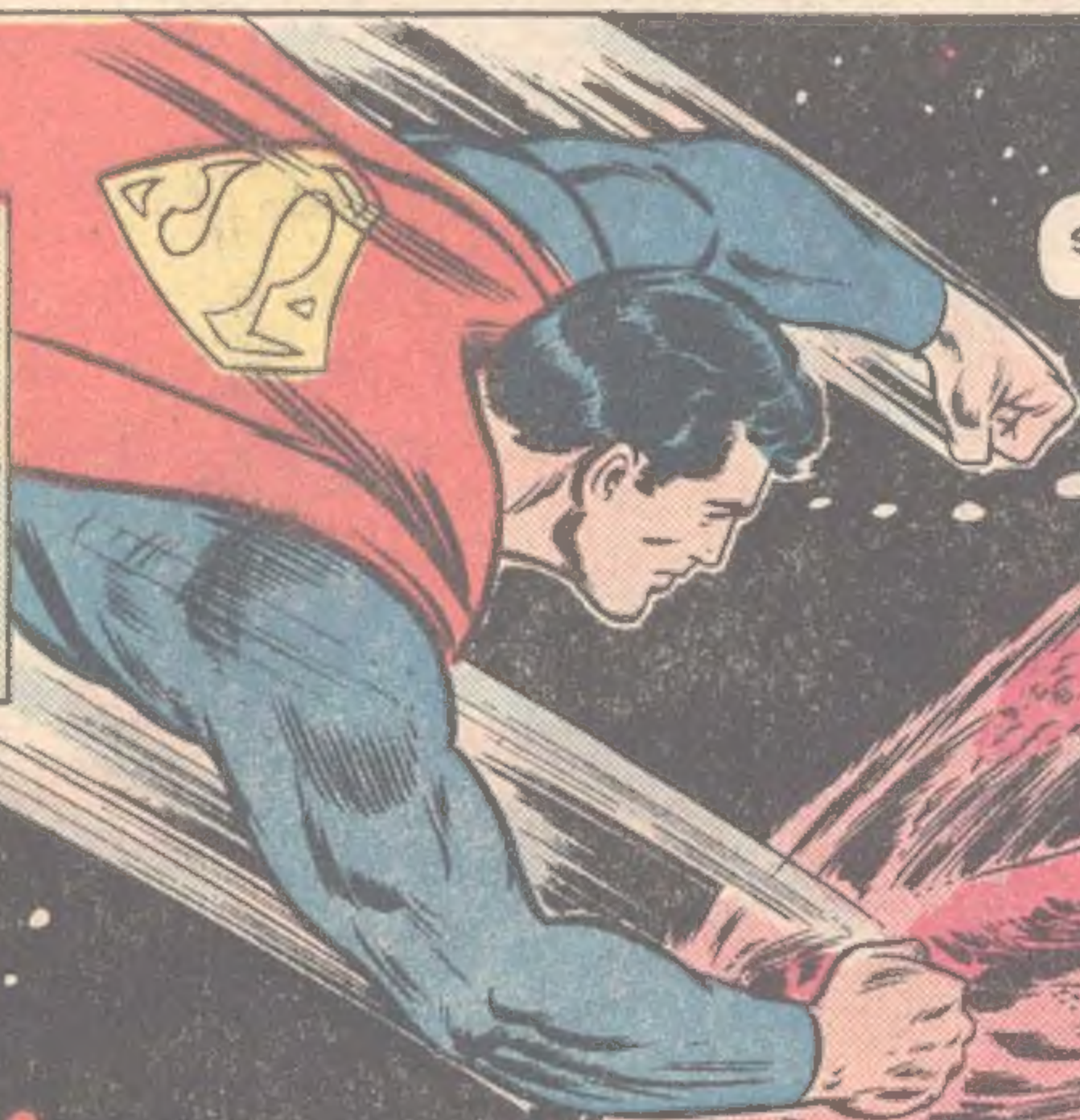


MANY LIGHT-YEARS HAVE BEEN TRANSVERSED SINCE ITS LAST SOURCE-FEED--THE RELENTLESS AND BARREN COSMIC GULFS HAVE TAKEN AN INEXORABLE TOLL!



IT HUNGERS... A HUNGER UNLIKE ANY IT HAS EVER ENDURED BEFORE! AND SO IT KEEPS ON HUNTING...

...UNTIL WITH RAW ANTICIPATION IT SUDDENLY SENSES THE PRESENCE... AND THE APPROACH OF ITS NEXT INTAKE!



WHAT AN ODD-SHAPED SWIRL OF CRIMSON ENERGY! NEVER IN SPACE OR TIME HAVE I EVER COME ACROSS ANYTHING LIKE IT!

BRACE YOURSELF, READER-- YOU ARE ABOUT TO TUNE IN ON--

"SUPERMAN'S SECRET AFTERLIFE!"

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LETTERER: BEN ODA

PENCILLER: CURT SWAN
COLORIST: GENE D'ANGELO

INKER: FRANK CHIARAMONTE
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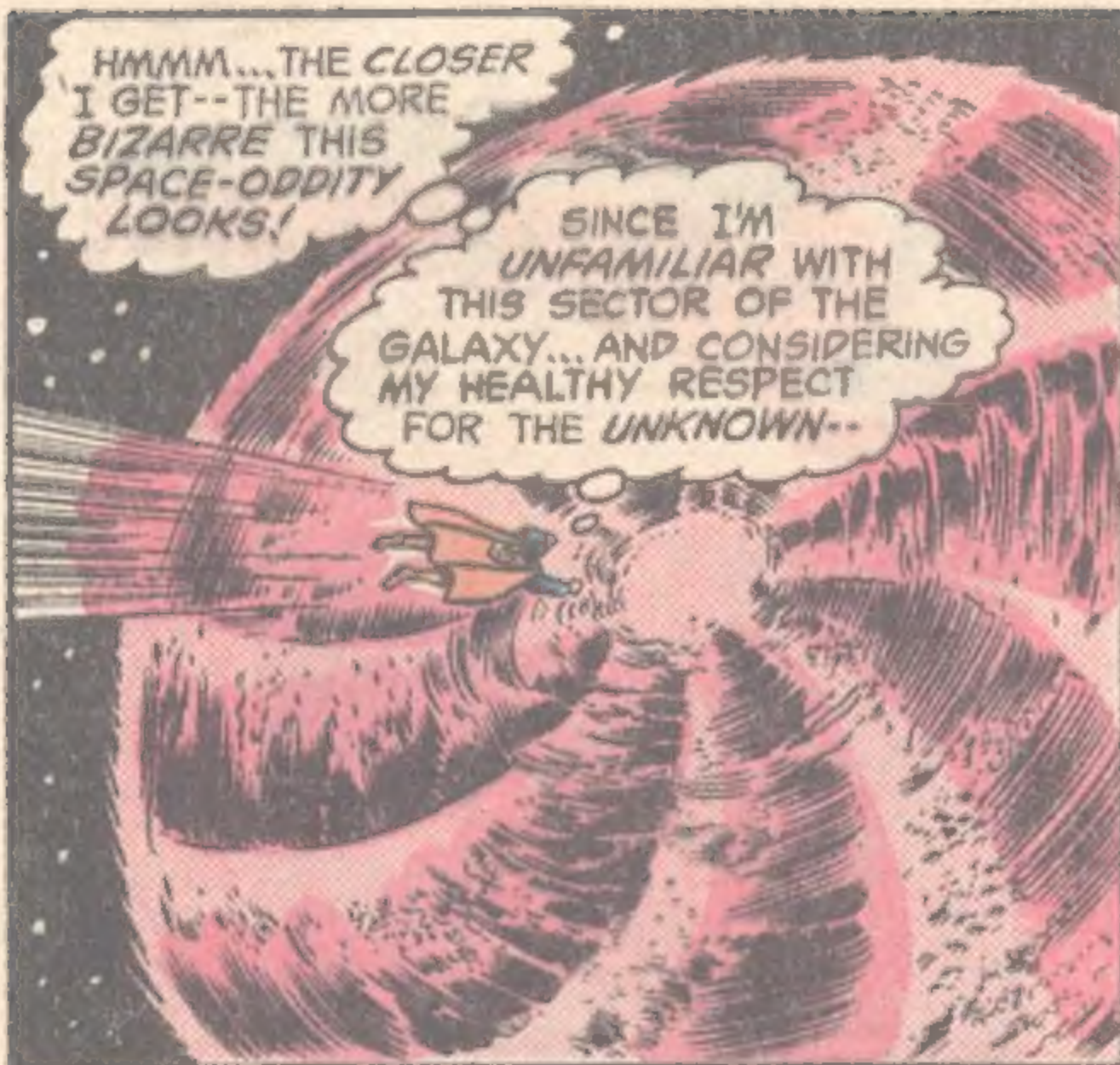
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HMMM...THE CLOSER I GET--THE MORE BIZARRE THIS SPACE-ODDITY LOOKS!

SINCE I'M UNFAMILIAR WITH THIS SECTOR OF THE GALAXY...AND CONSIDERING MY HEALTHY RESPECT FOR THE UNKNOWN--



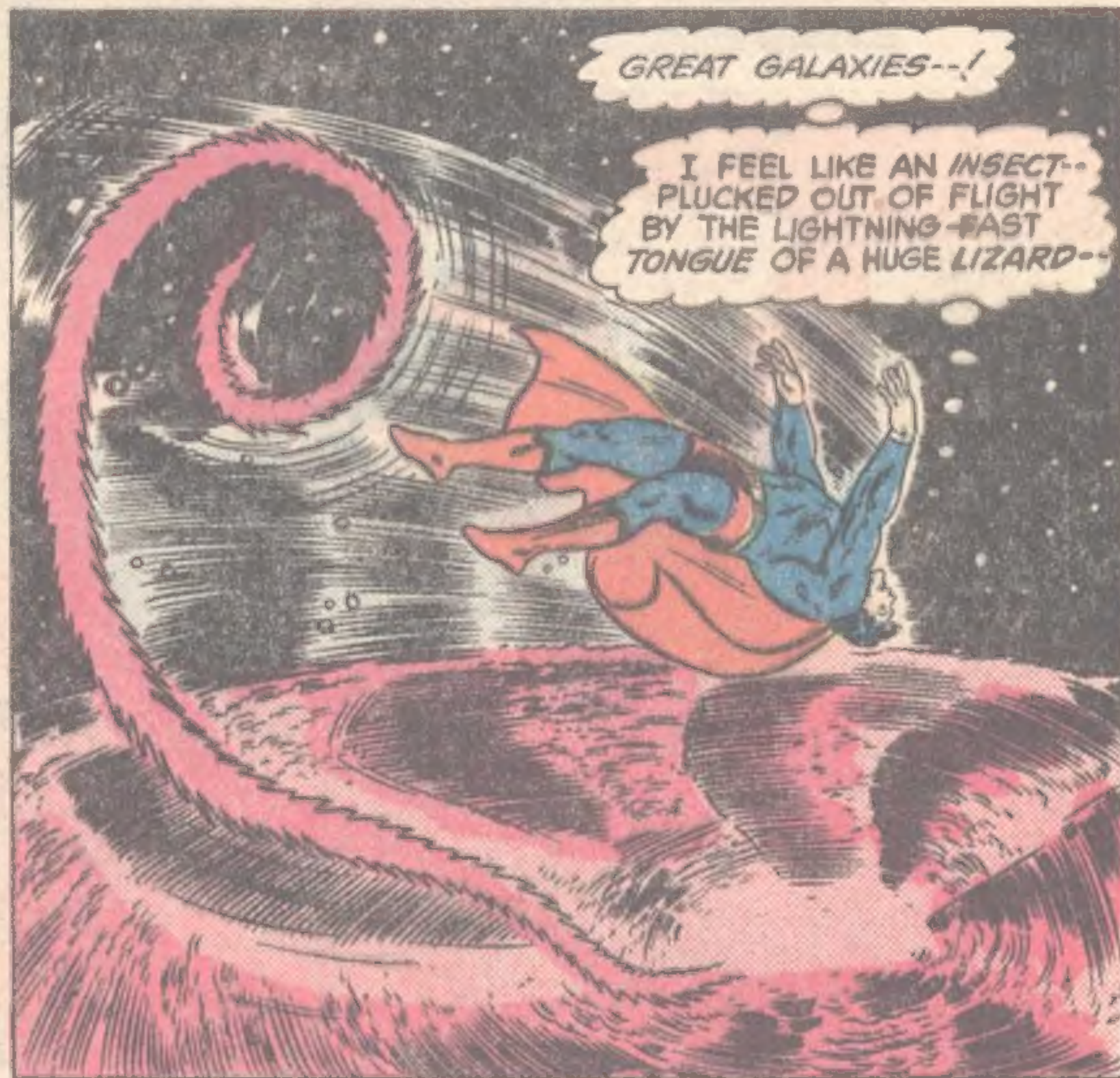
--I'LL PLAY IT SAFE AND STEER CLEAR OF THIS INTERSTELLAR ODDBALL! AFTER ALL, WHAT I DON'T FLY THROUGH CAN'T HURT ME!

BESIDES, I'M IN NO MOOD FOR AN ENCOUNTER OF ANY KIND...



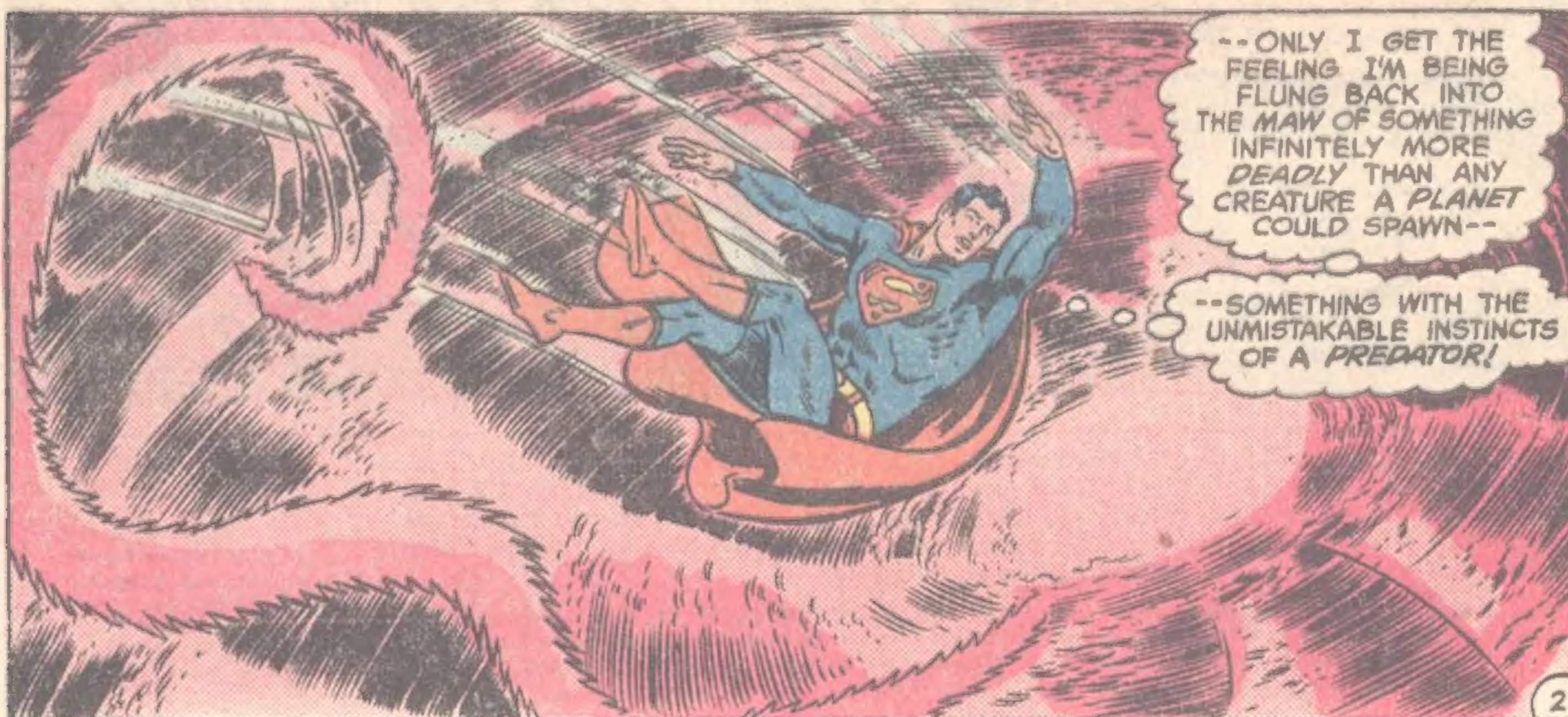
...NOT AFTER CONTENDING WITH A RUNAWAY COMET FOR 25 MILLION MILES!

IF I HADN'T FINALLY MANAGED TO DEFLECT ITS COURSE--THREE INHABITED PLANETS WOULD'VE BEEN OBLITERATED BY IT!



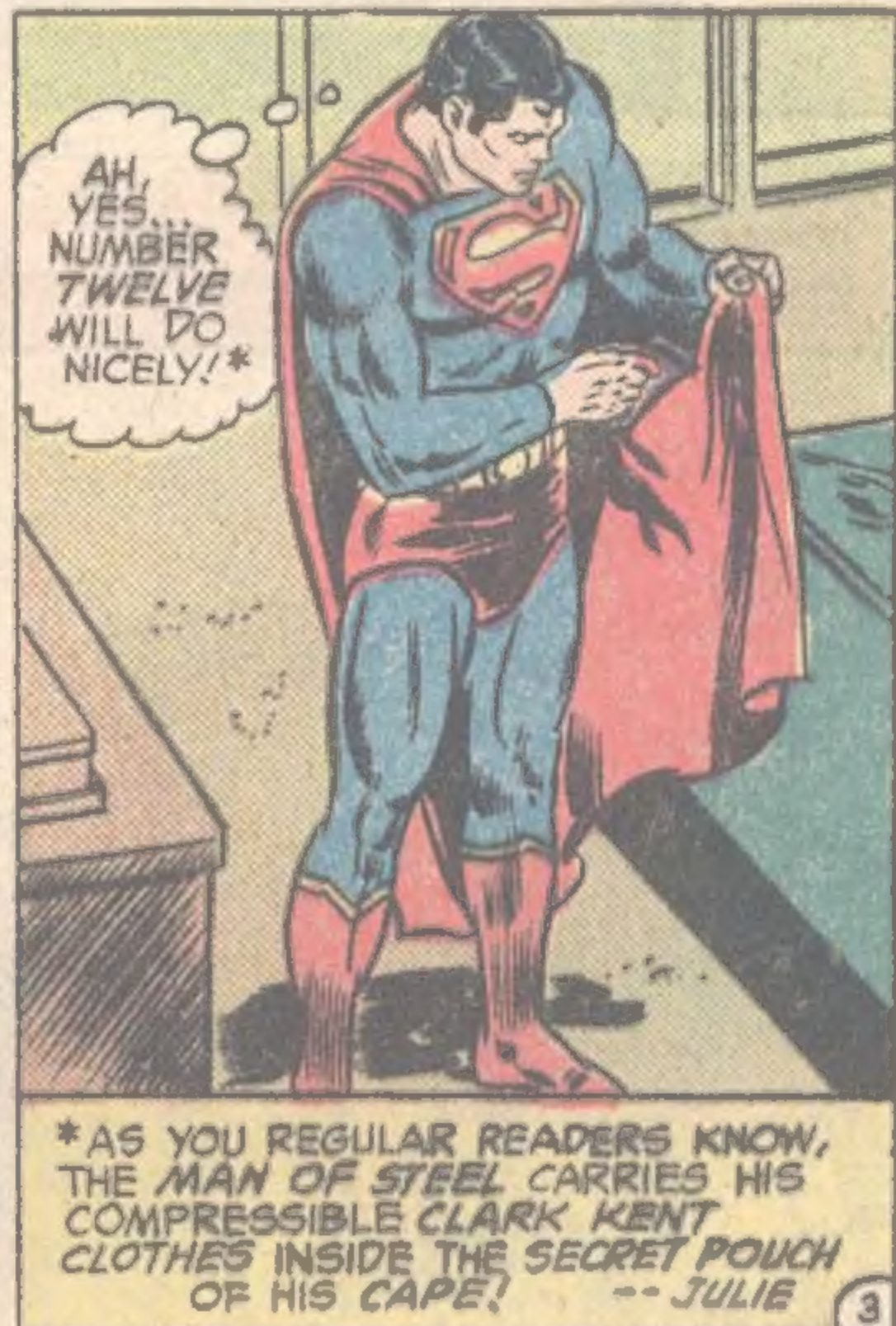
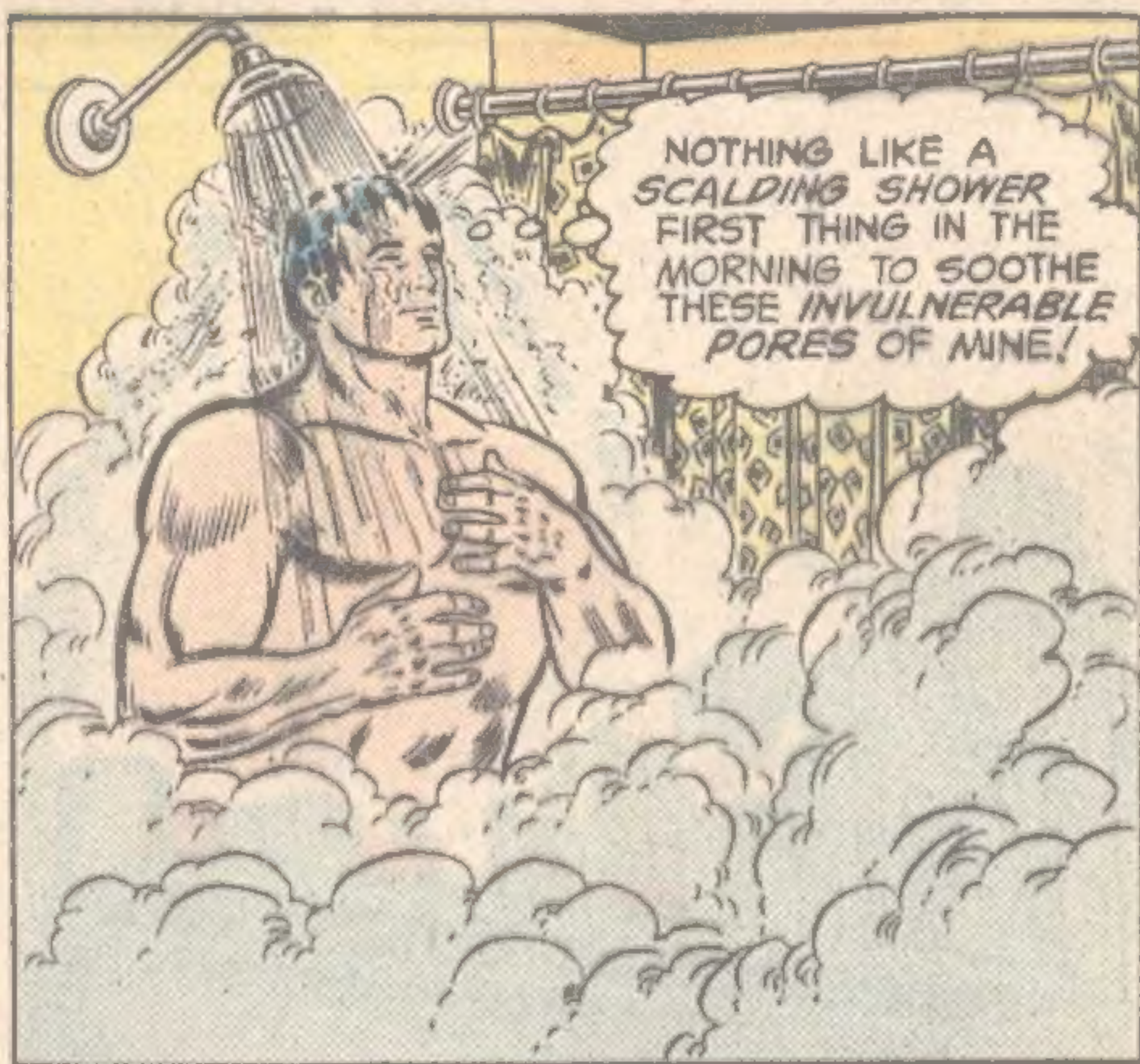
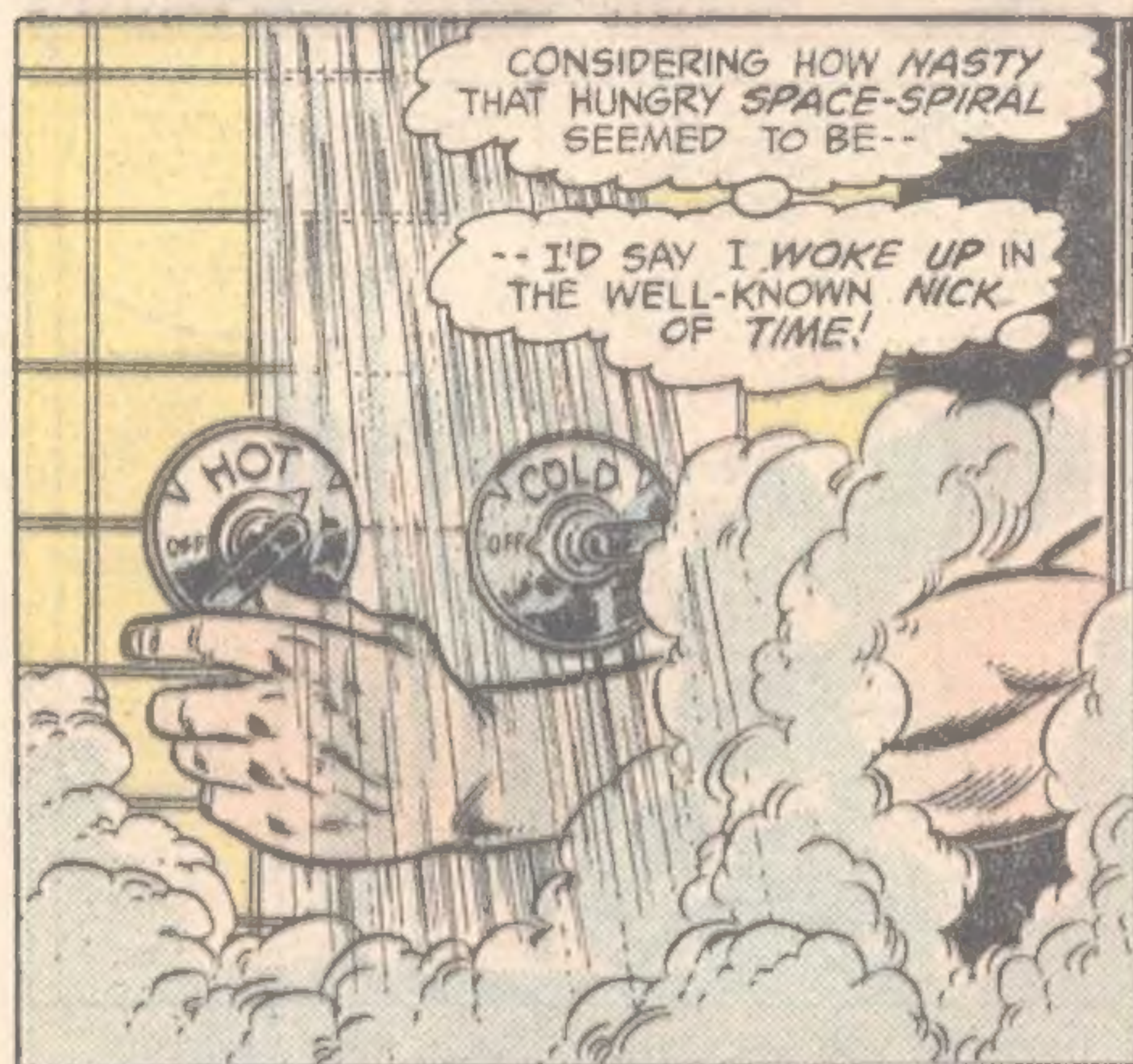
GREAT GALAXIES--!

I FEEL LIKE AN INSECT--PLUCKED OUT OF FLIGHT BY THE LIGHTNING-FAST TONGUE OF A HUGE LIZARD--



--ONLY I GET THE FEELING I'M BEING FLUNG BACK INTO THE MAW OF SOMETHING INFINITELY MORE DEADLY THAN ANY CREATURE A PLANET COULD SPAWN--

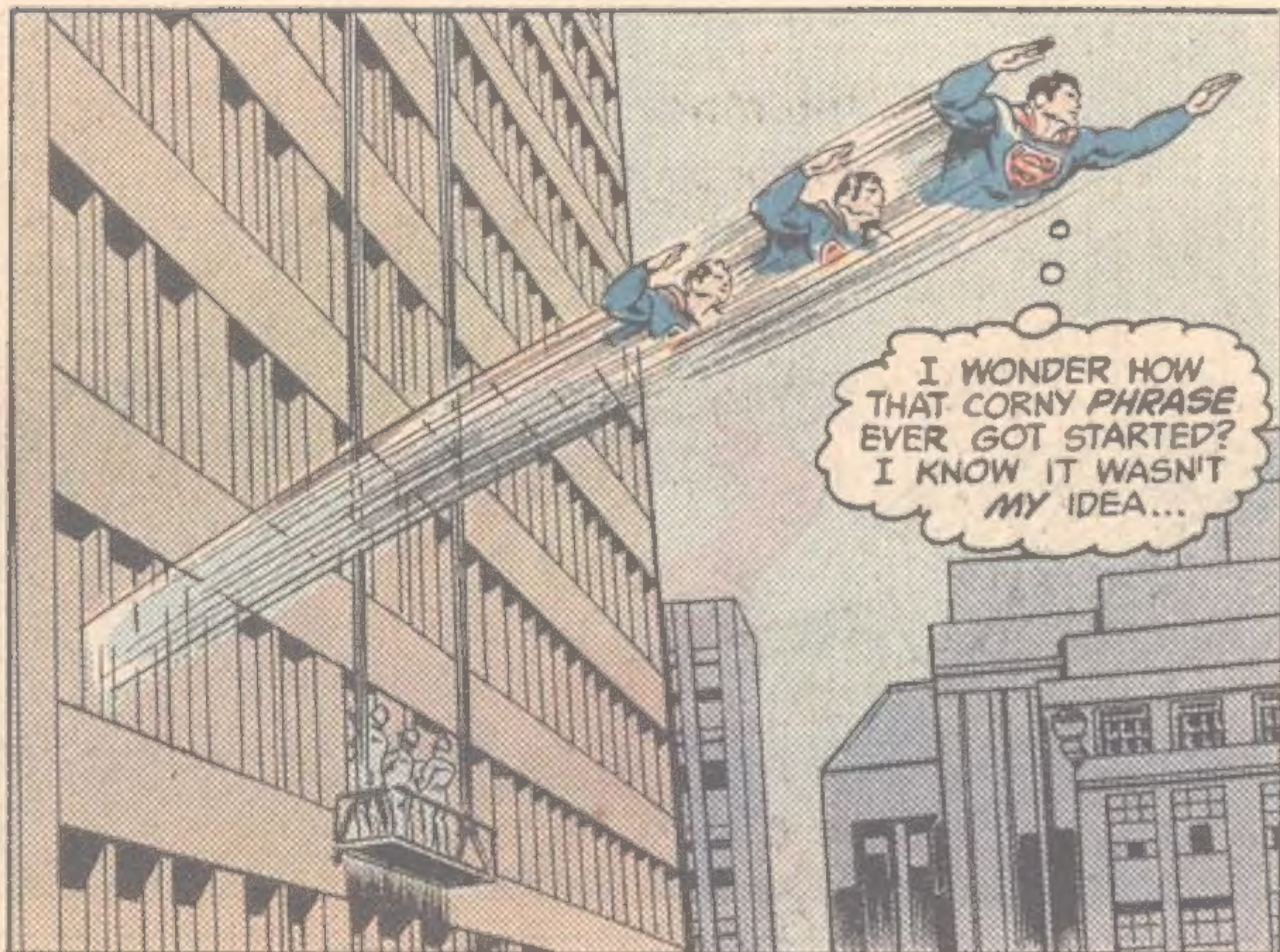
--SOMETHING WITH THE UNMISTAKABLE INSTINCTS OF A PREDATOR!



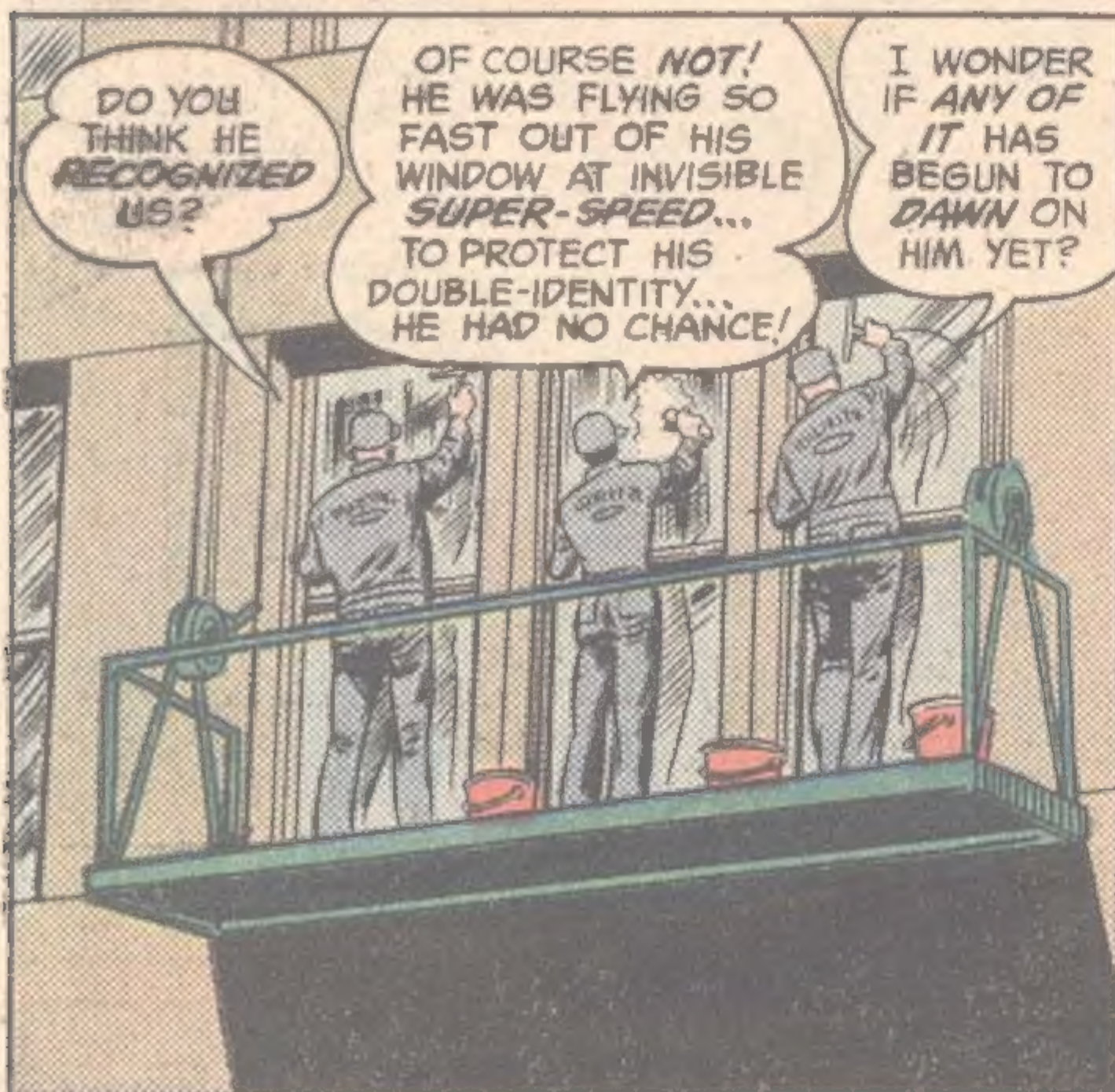


HERE I GO AGAIN--THIS IS WHERE I'M SUPPOSED TO SAY--

--UP, UP, AND AWAY!



I WONDER HOW THAT CORNY PHRASE EVER GOT STARTED? I KNOW IT WASN'T MY IDEA...



DO YOU THINK HE RECOGNIZED US?

OF COURSE NOT! HE WAS FLYING SO FAST OUT OF HIS WINDOW AT INVISIBLE SUPER-SPEED... TO PROTECT HIS DOUBLE-IDENTITY... HE HAD NO CHANCE!

I WONDER IF ANY OF IT HAS BEGUN TO DAWN ON HIM YET?



IMPOSSIBLE! IT'S MUCH TOO SOON FOR OUR CAPED NEMESIS TO REALIZE WHAT IS HAPPENING TO HIM!

JUST BE PATIENT, GENERAL ZOD! WE ARE IN TOTAL CONTROL NOW--REMEMBER?

THOSE OF YOU WHO DO RECOGNIZE THIS SINISTER TRIO KNOW HOW MUCH TROUBLE AWAITS THE MAN OF MIGHT! AS FOR YOU OTHER READERS--TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT!

A STREAK OF RED AND BLUE ZOOMS TOWARD A CERTAIN WINDOW ALONG THE NORTH FACE OF THE MAMMOTH GALAXY BUILDING...



...THE WINDOW OF A CERTAIN EMPTY STOREROOM...



GREAT KRYPTON! AN ENVELOPE WITH A GLOWING S-EMBLEM!

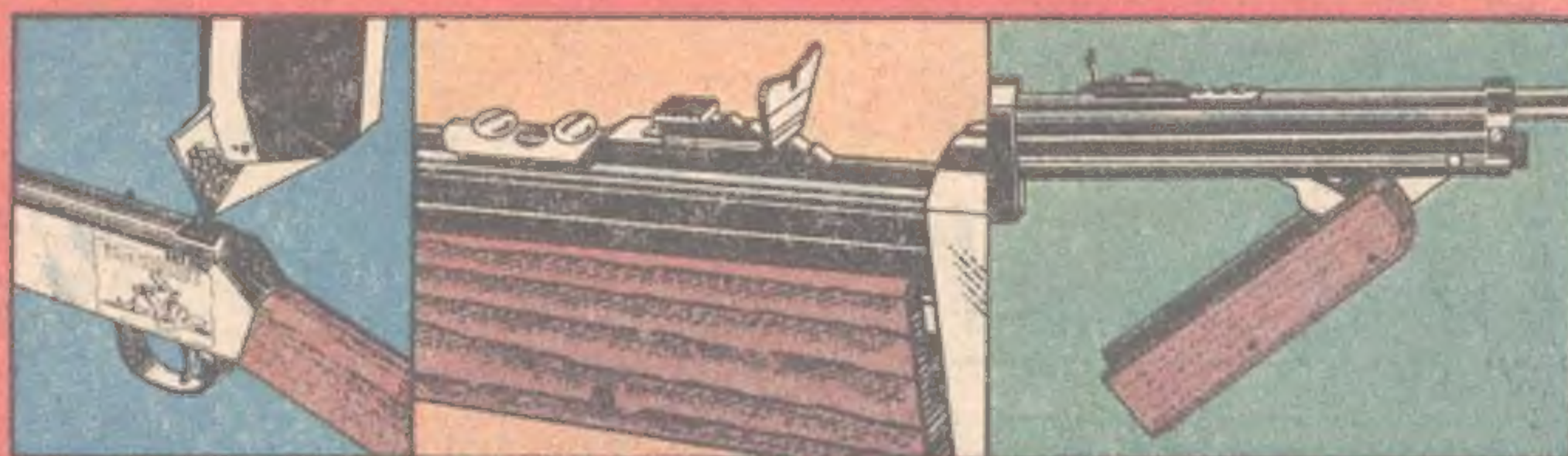
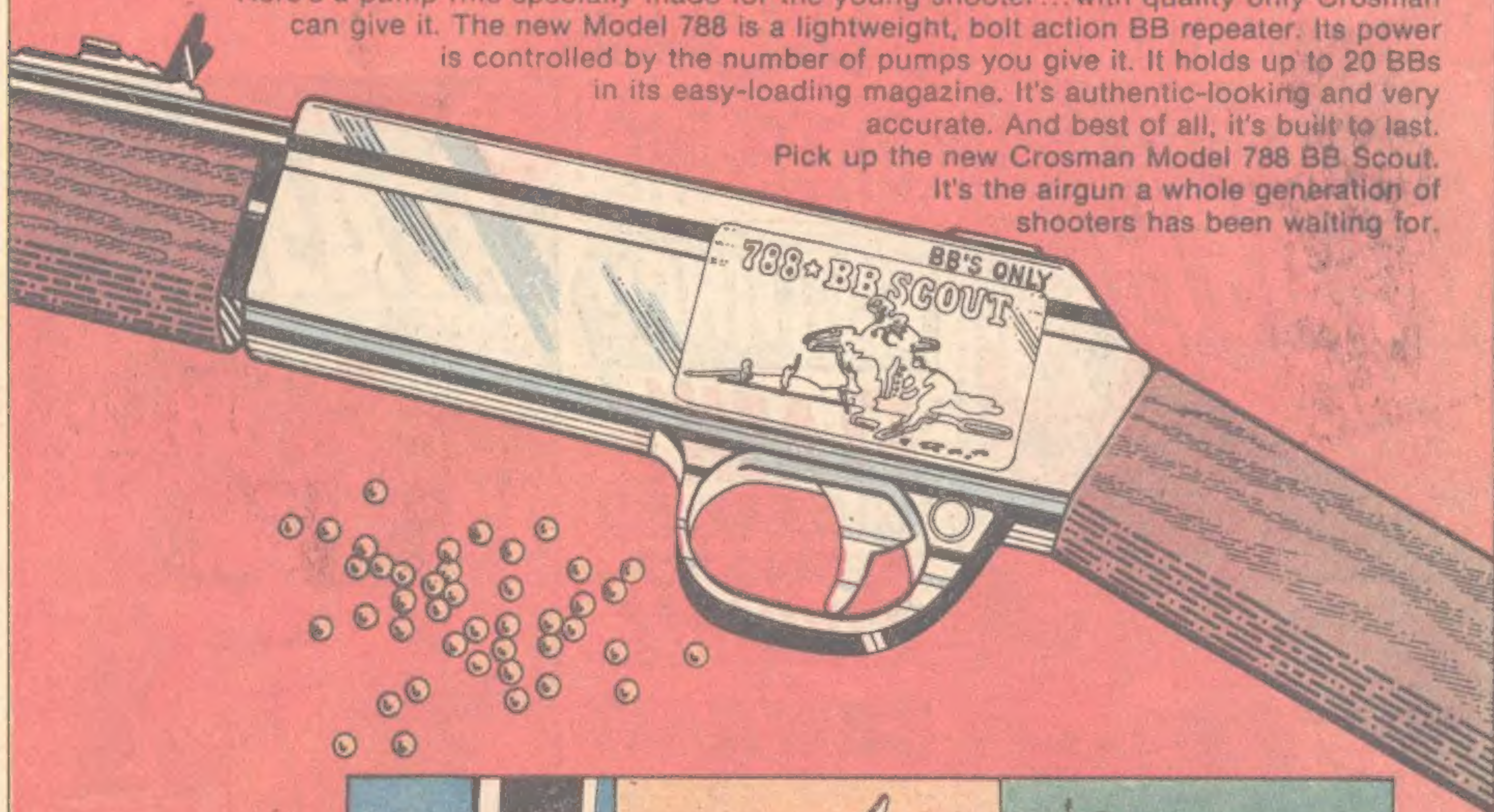
SOMEONE'S BEEN EXPECTING ME!

Introducing the Model 788 BB Scout... Crosman's new youth pump rifle!

Here's a pump rifle specially made for the young shooter... with quality only Crosman can give it. The new Model 788 is a lightweight, bolt action BB repeater. Its power is controlled by the number of pumps you give it. It holds up to 20 BBs in its easy-loading magazine. It's authentic-looking and very accurate. And best of all, it's built to last.

Pick up the new Crosman Model 788 BB Scout.

It's the airgun a whole generation of shooters has been waiting for.

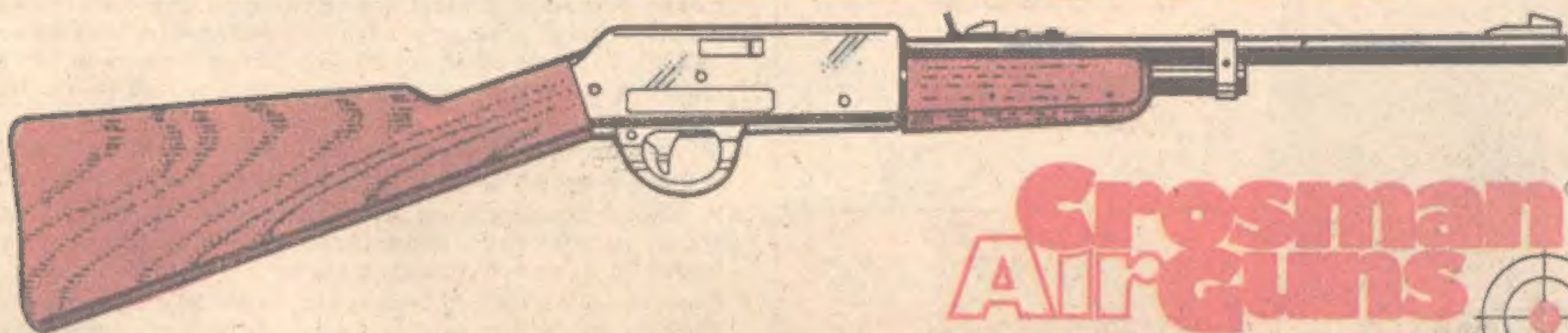


Quick-loading
BB port

Adjustable rear sight

Easy pump action

PICK UP A **CROSMAN.** YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT'S AN **AIRGUN!**



Crosman
Airguns



SOMETHING NEW IS HAPPENING!



**DIFFERENT...
EXCITING!!**

FLASH'S
WHOLE WORLD
BEGINS TO
CRUMBLE
AND
BARRY ALLEN'S
LIFE TAKES SOME
SURPRISING **↓ TURNS ↑**
IN THE ISSUES
TO COME!!



↑ ON SALE NOW ↑

**↑ COMING
NEXT MONTH! ↑**

THE **SECOND** SUPERMAN THE MOVIE CONTEST!

FIRST PRIZE

THE ACTUAL CAPE WORN BY
CHRISTOPHER REEVE IN THE FILMING
OF SUPERMAN THE MOVIE!

10 SECOND PRIZES

A PAGE OF
ORIGINAL
SUPERMAN
ARTWORK!

UNLIMITED
THIRD PRIZES
SUBSCRIPTIONS TO YOUR
FAVORITE DC COMICS!

**ENTER
TODAY!**

THE RULES:

1. At the bottom of all DC Comics' letters and text pages dated JANUARY and FEBRUARY (FEBRUARY and MARCH in the case of the DC Dollar Comics) you will find one of 25 numbered trivia questions concerning the Superman Family of characters. To enter, simply answer all 25 questions correctly, listing the lettered answer to all 25 questions on the back of a postcard. Mail these postcards to "The Second Great Superman Movie Contest," DC Comics Inc., Post Office Box 116, Radio City Station, New York, N.Y. 10019.
2. Only ONE ENTRY per person will be accepted, and each entry MUST be on a postcard. In the event of more than one entry from a single contestant, all entries from that contestant will be invalid. Entries sent in envelopes will not be accepted.
3. All entries with correct answers to all 25 questions will be placed in the first and second prize drawings. The first card drawn will receive the actual cape worn by Christopher Reeve in the Warner Brothers' motion picture SUPERMAN. The next ten cards drawn will receive the second prize, one page of original SUPERMAN artwork drawn by Curt Swan. All other entries with correct answers to all 25 questions will receive two-year subscriptions to their favorite DC comic book.
4. All entries with correct answers to between 15 and 24 questions will receive a one-year subscription to their favorite DC comic book.
5. All entries must be received by DC Comics before January 2, 1979. The drawings for the one first prize and the ten second prizes will be held at DC Comics on January 8, 1979.
6. Employees of Warner Communications Inc. and its subsidiaries and affiliates, and DC Comics' free-lance artists, writers, colorists and letterers, any of the participating wholesalers of Independent News Company, and the immediate families of those employees are specifically excluded from this contest.
7. Contest void where prohibited by law and subject to all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. There are no age or racial restrictions; males and females are equally eligible to win.

AS PIERCING BEAMS OF X-RAY VISION PROBE THE TYPEWRITTEN CONTENTS OF THE MYSTERIOUS LETTER...



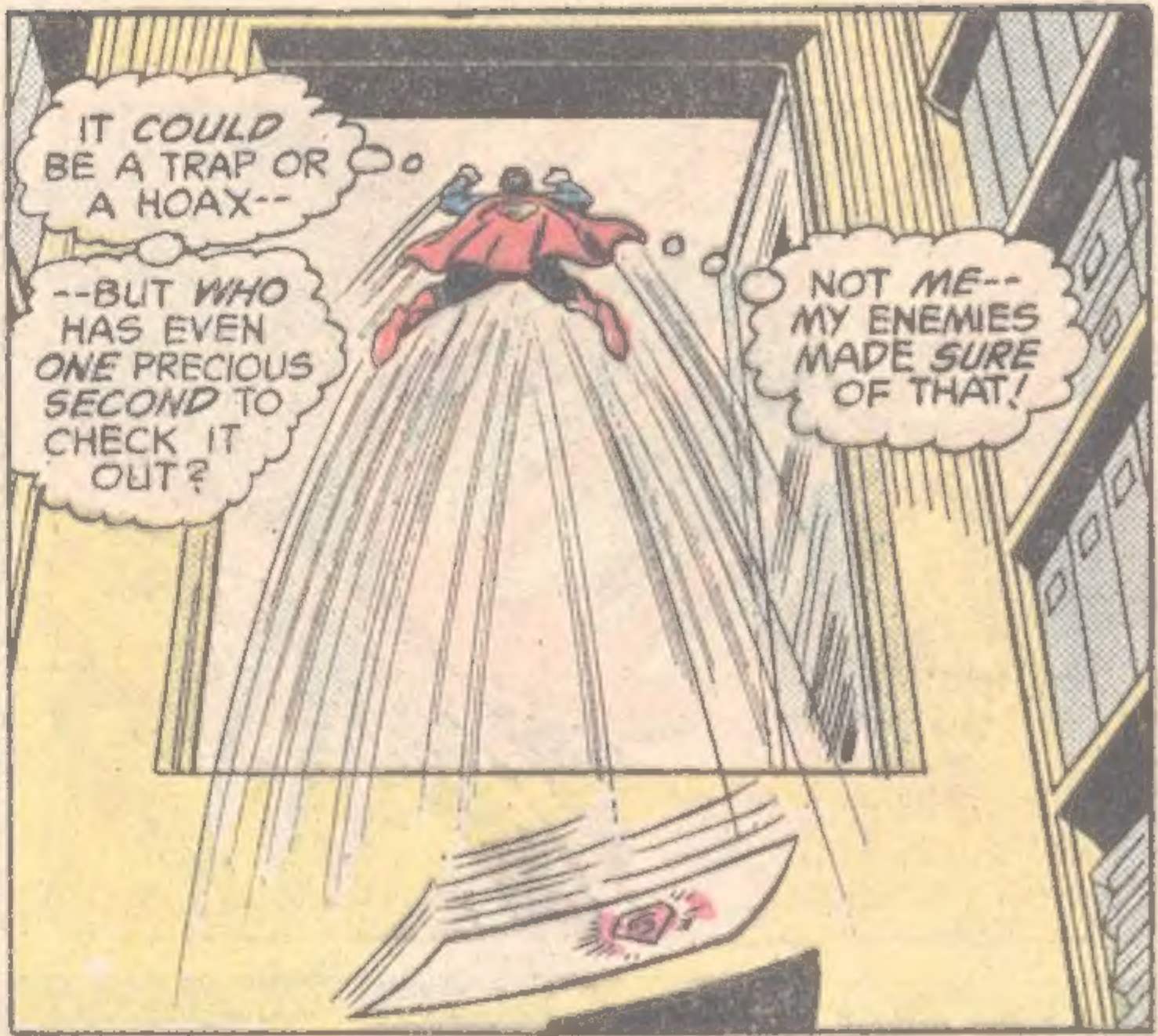
IT'S... INHUMAN!

WHO WOULD BE MONSTROUS ENOUGH TO CONCEIVE SUCH A DESPICABLE PLAN?

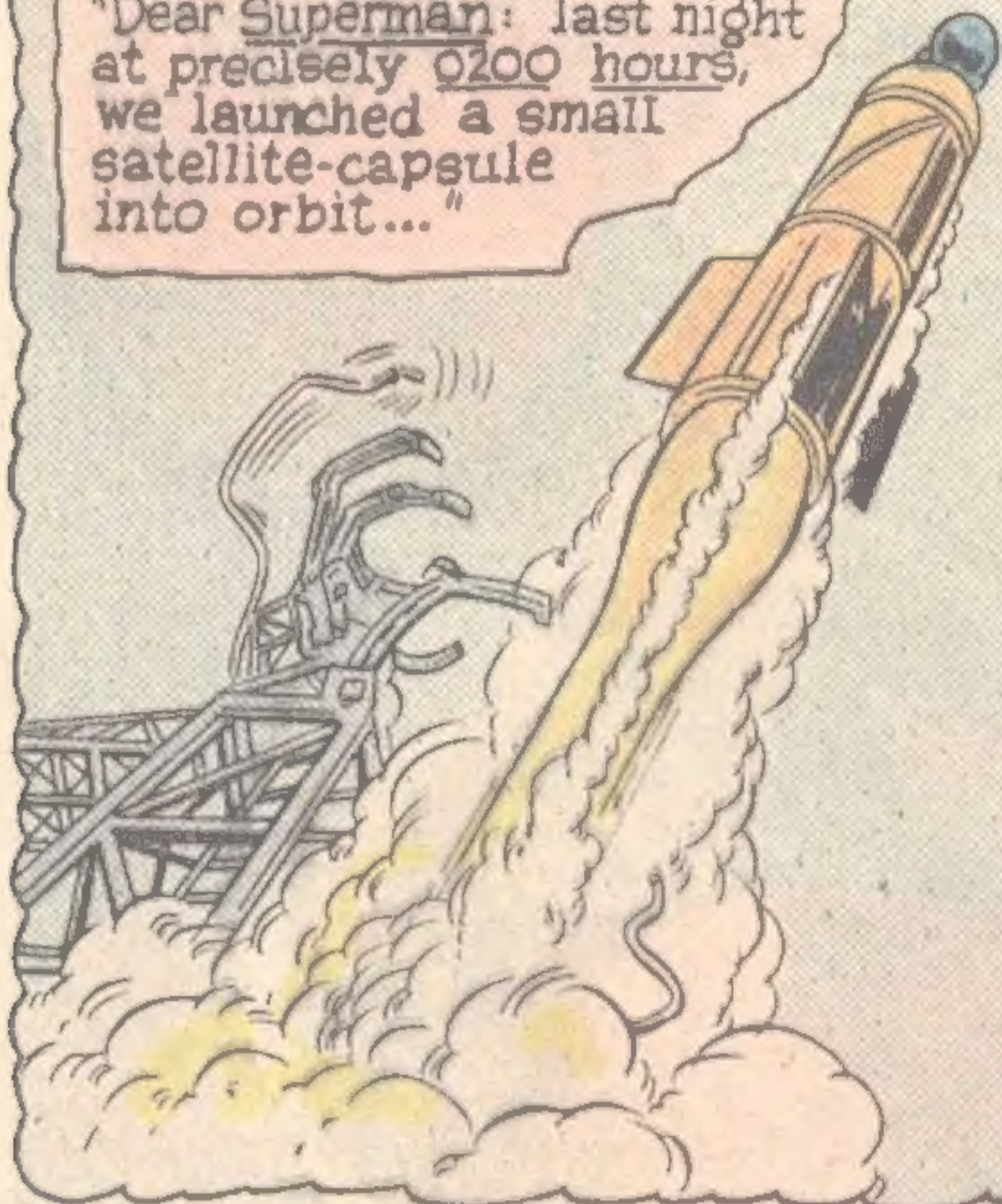
IT COULD BE A TRAP OR A HOAX--

--BUT WHO HAS EVEN ONE PRECIOUS SECOND TO CHECK IT OUT?

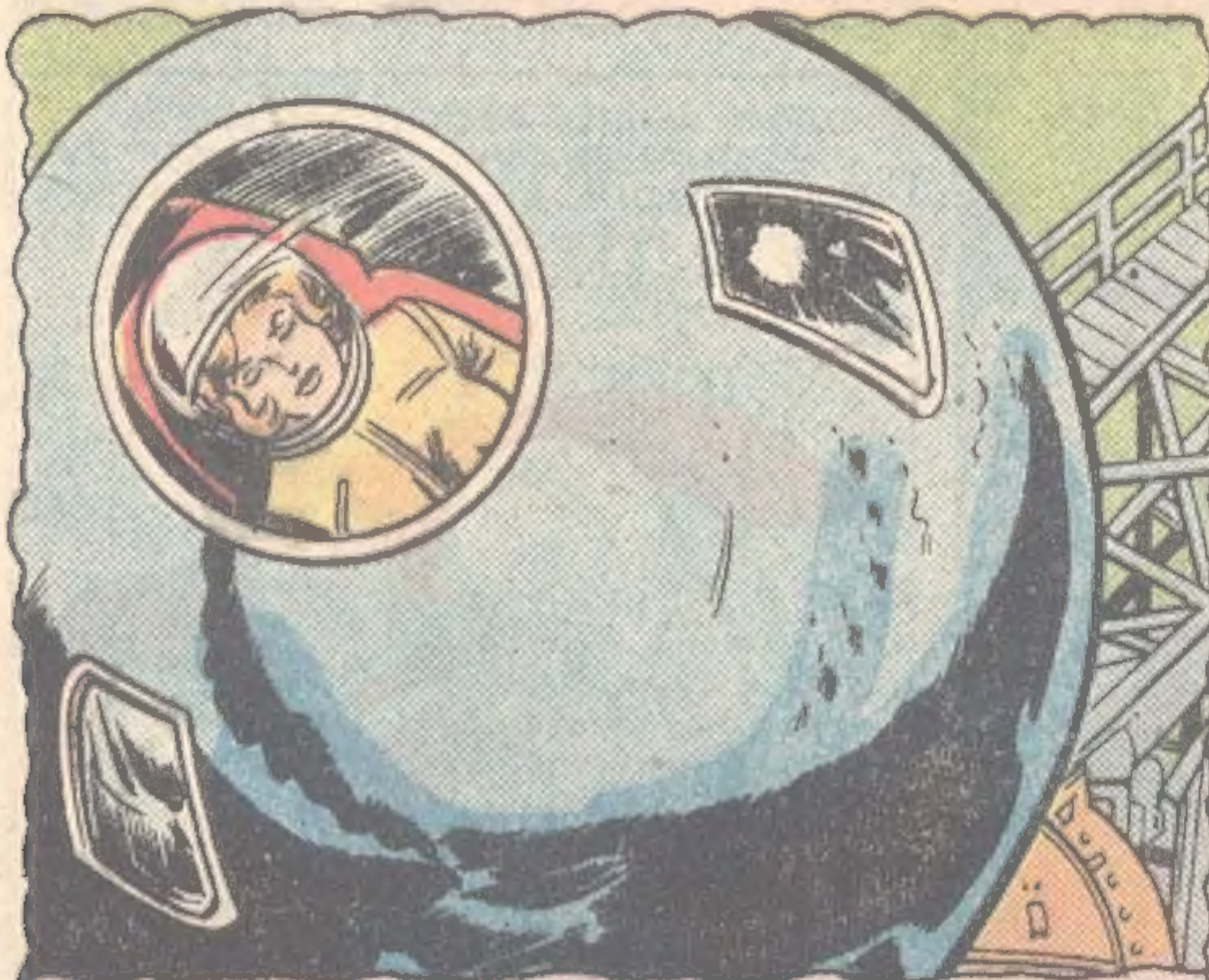
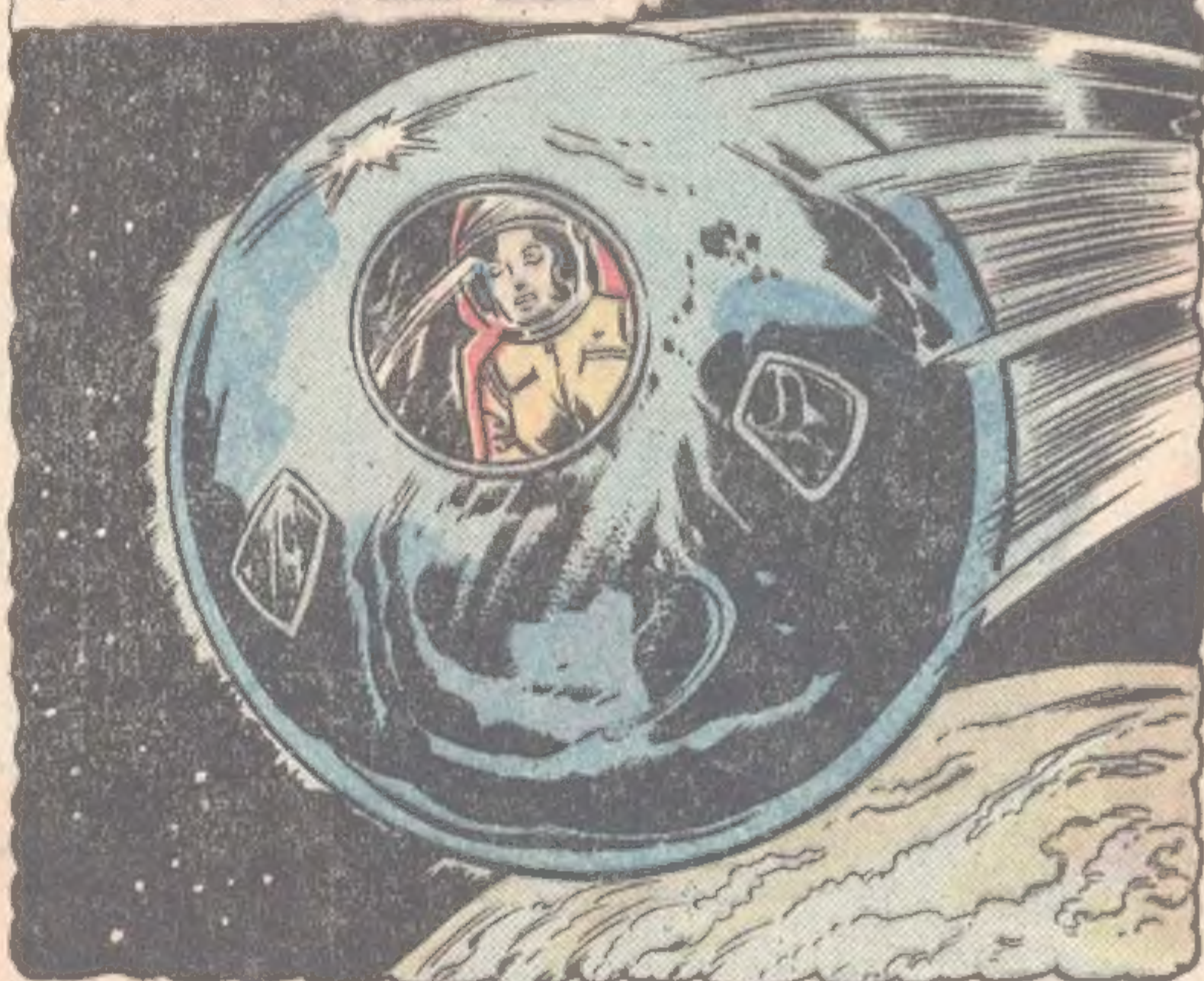
NOT ME-- MY ENEMIES MADE SURE OF THAT!



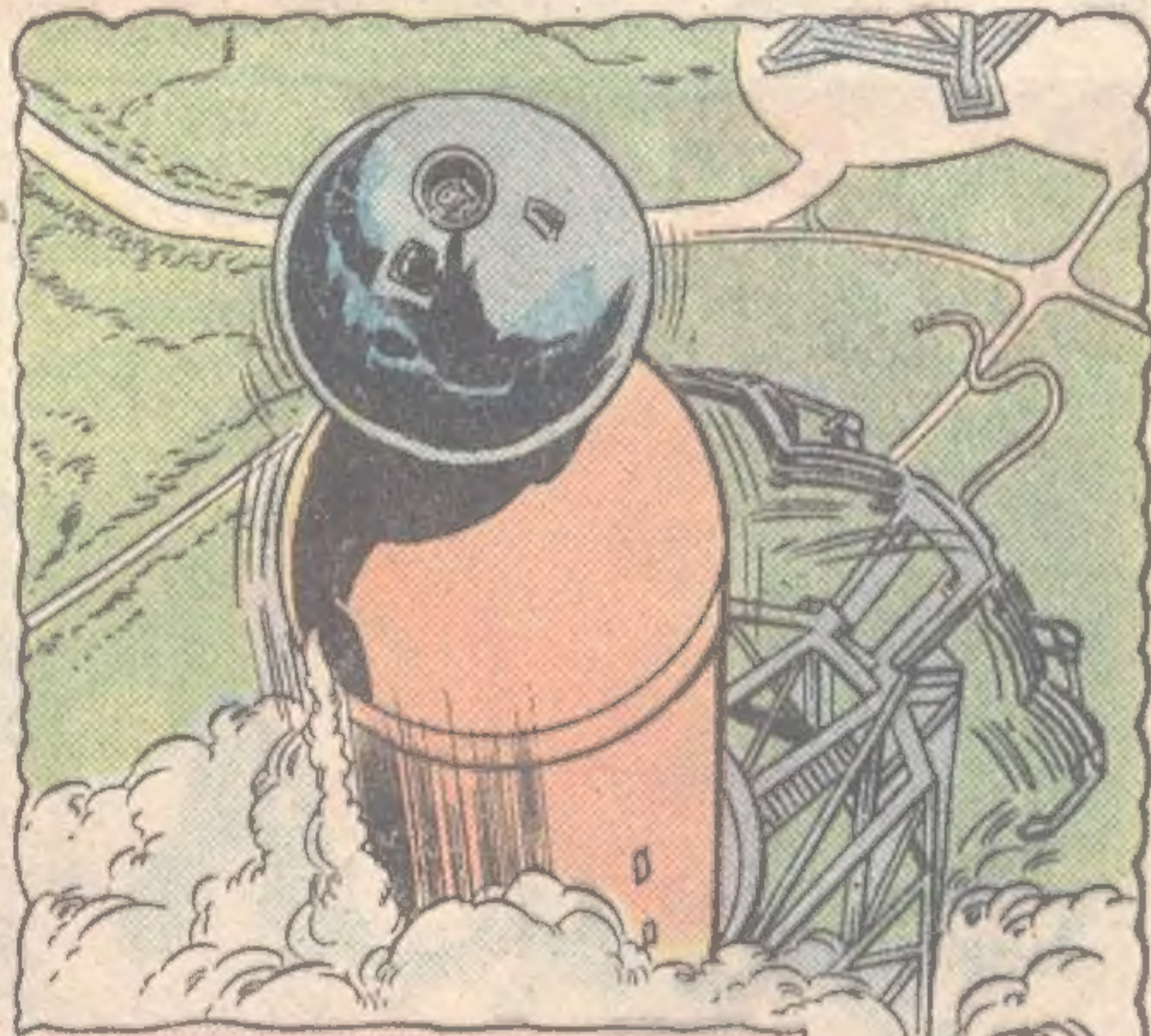
"Dear Superman: last night at precisely 0200 hours, we launched a small satellite-capsule into orbit..."



"... a capsule with an unwilling passenger-- your friend Lola Lane!"



"This morning, another of your friends, Lana Lang, was placed in an identical capsule atop an identical rocket geared for launch-readiness..."



"A launch that took place scant moments ago, at 0800 hours, to be exact..."

"In the interim--we have brought about a sudden deterioration in Lois Lane's orbit..."

"...while Lana Lang's capsule is accelerating skyward at 25,000 miles per hour!"

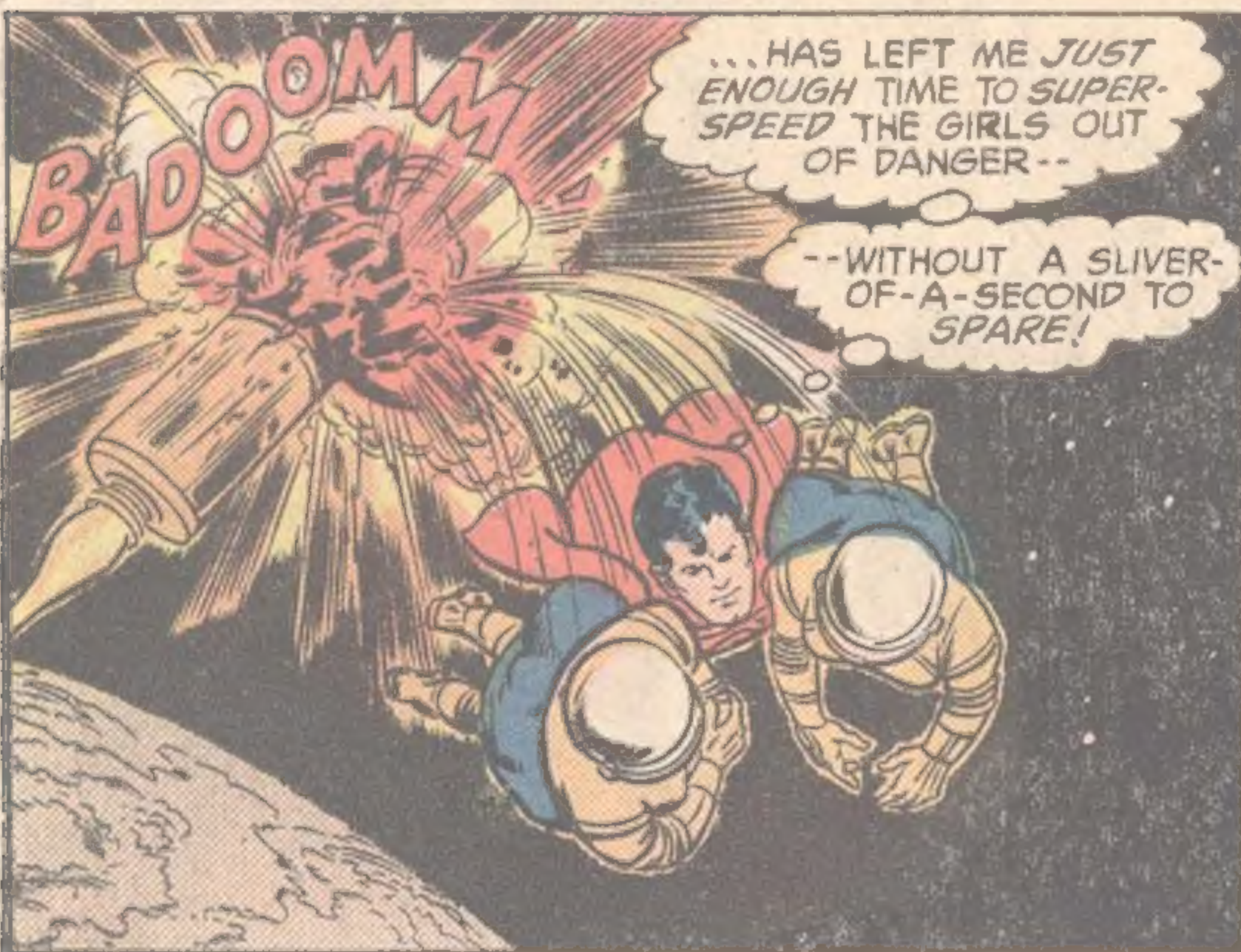
"The result: at this very second, her capsule is plummeting toward the Earth at 18,000 miles per hour..."

"A journey which inevitably will lead to..."

AT THAT POINT, THE GRISLY DETAILS OF THE DIABOLIC MESSAGE FADE-- AND THE ACTION ACE STREAKS TOWARD THE STARK REALITY OF IMMINENT CATASTROPHE!

IT WAS NO BLUFF! AN X-RAY SCAN TELLS ME LOIS AND LANA REALLY ARE ABOARD THOSE DOOMED CAPSULES!

WHOEVER CONCOCTED THIS INSIDIOUS SCHEME...



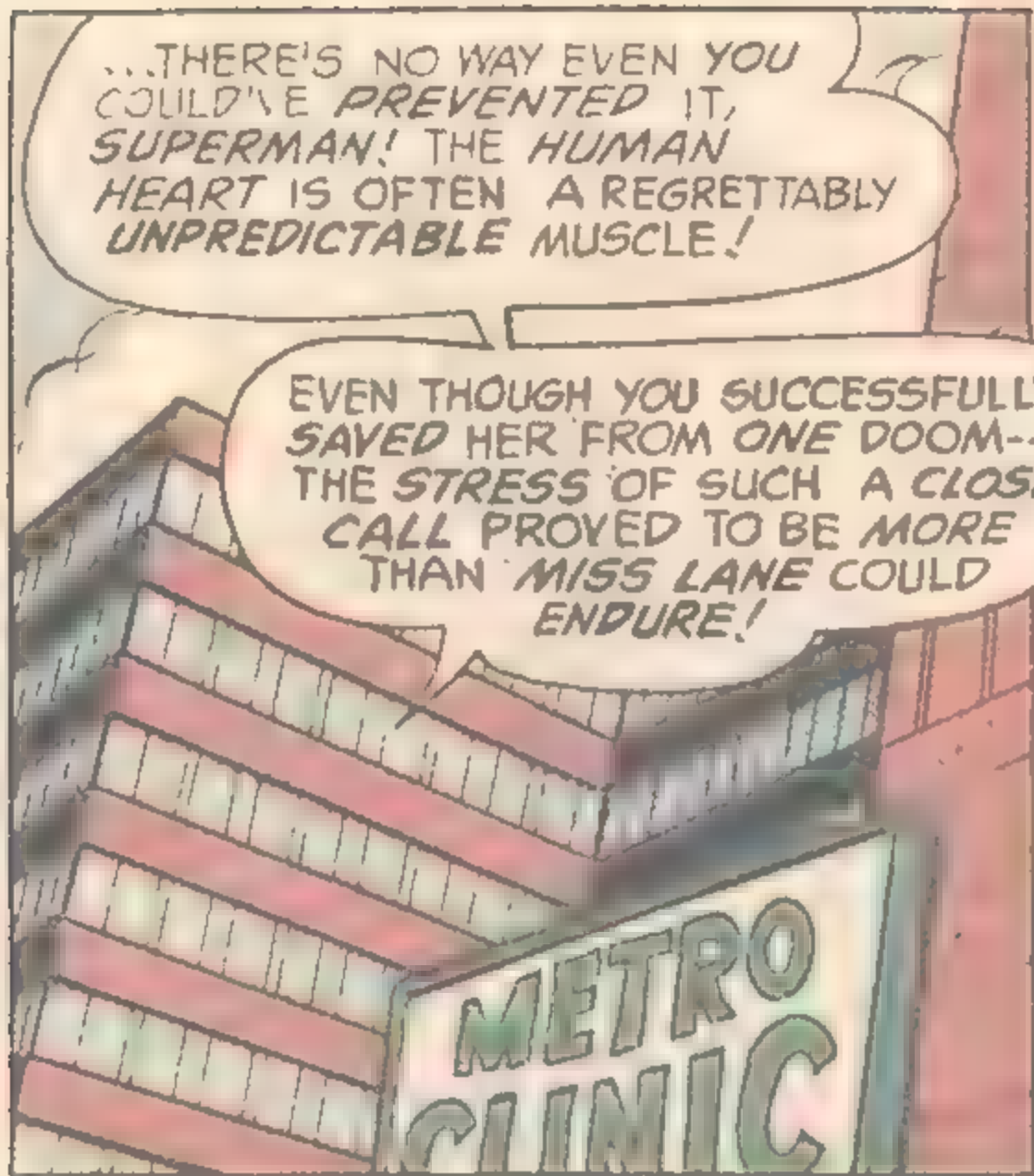
...HAS LEFT ME JUST ENOUGH TIME TO SUPER-SPEED THE GIRLS OUT OF DANGER--

--WITHOUT A SLIVER-OF-A-SECOND TO SPARE!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, SUPERMAN-- TAKE A LOOK AT LANA! I THINK SHE'S PASSED OUT... SH-SHE COULDN'T TAKE IT...

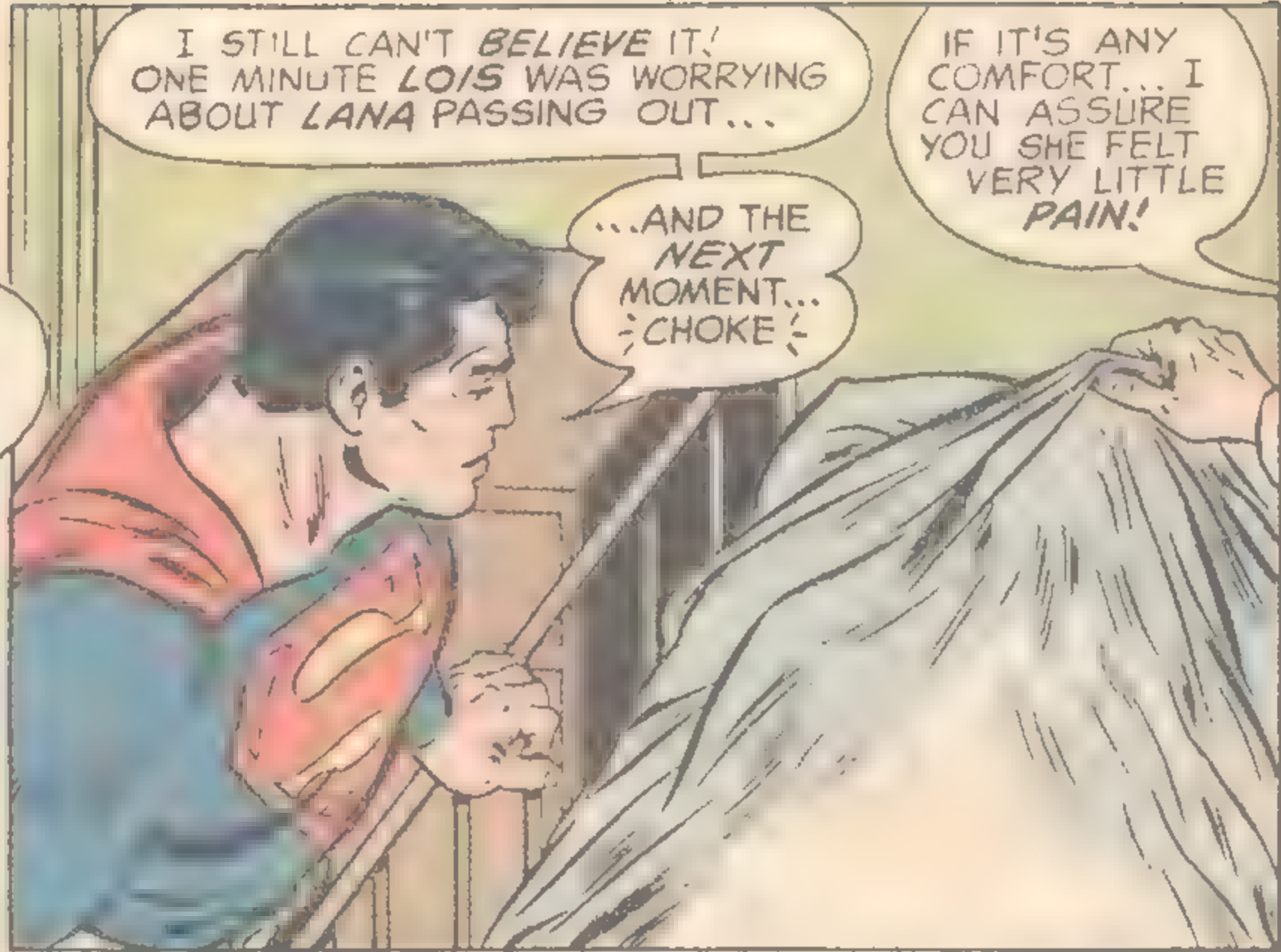
WE'LL STOP BY THE METRO CLINIC TO CHECK HER OUT!





...THERE'S NO WAY EVEN YOU COULD'VE *PREVENTED* IT, *SUPERMAN!* THE *HUMAN* HEART IS OFTEN A REGRETTABLY *UNPREDICTABLE* MUSCLE!

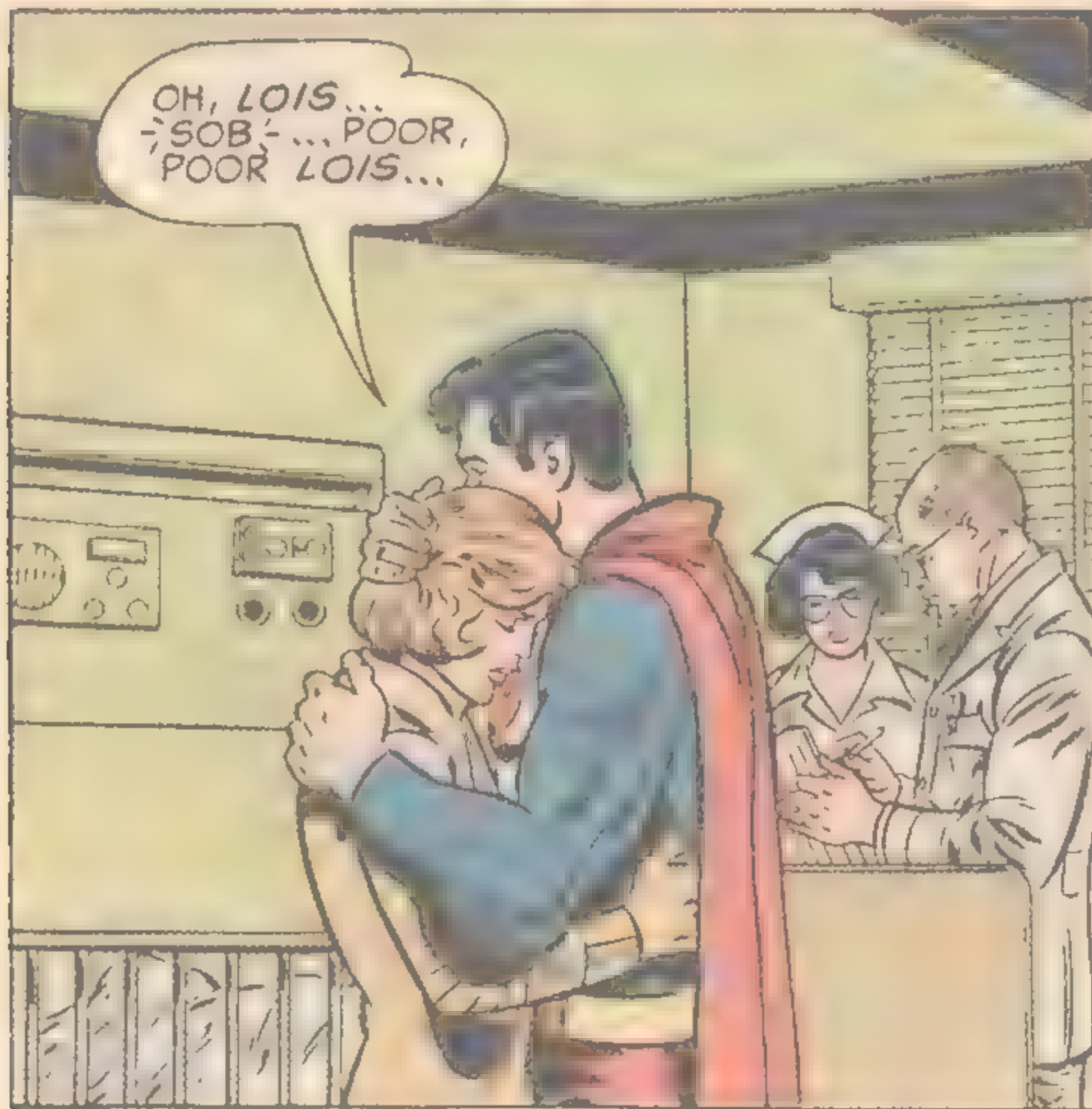
EVEN THOUGH YOU SUCCESSFULLY SAVED HER FROM ONE DOOM-- THE STRESS OF SUCH A CLOSE CALL PROVED TO BE MORE THAN *MISS LANE* COULD ENDURE!



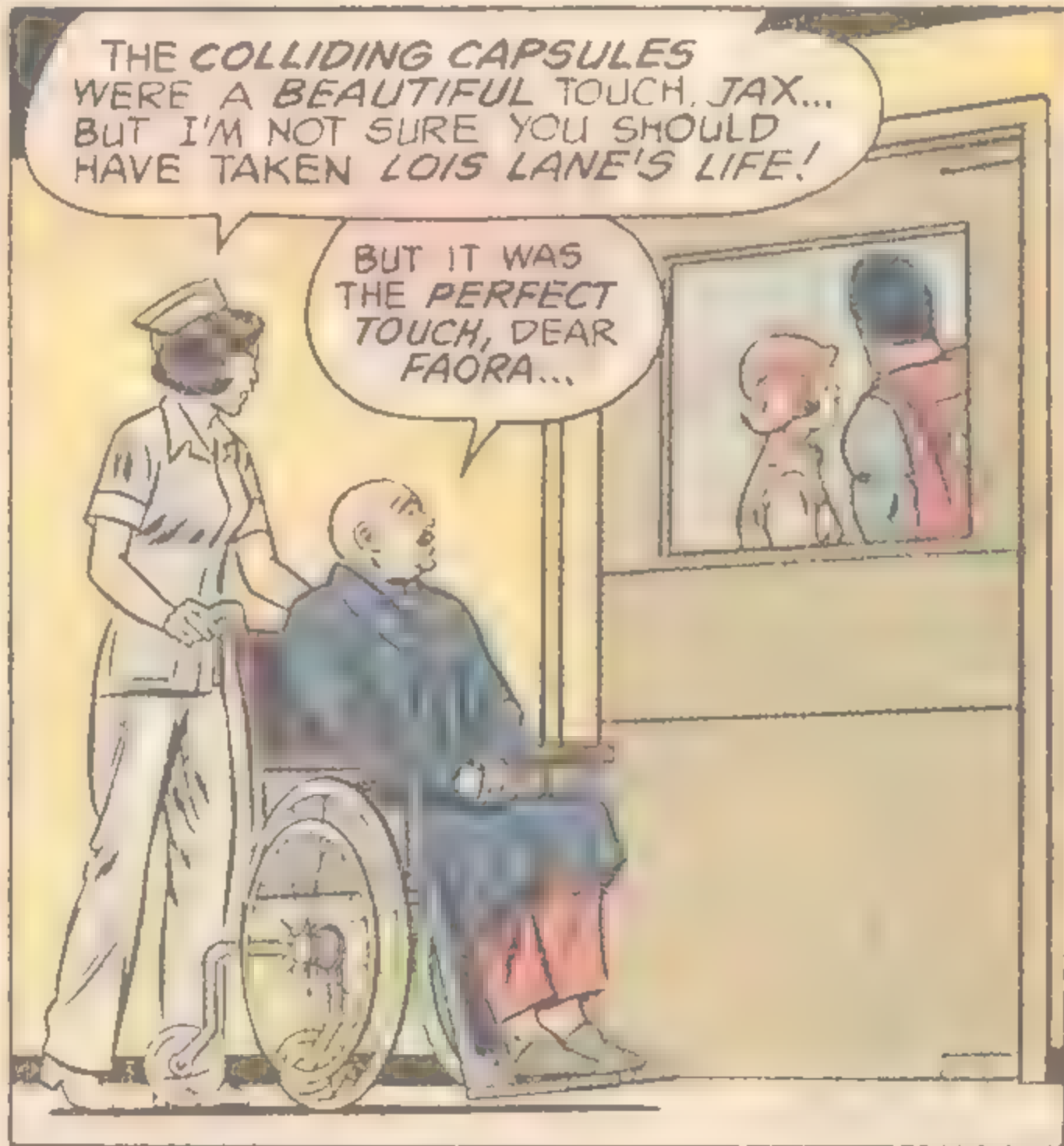
I STILL CAN'T *BELIEVE* IT! ONE MINUTE *LOIS* WAS WORRYING ABOUT *LANA* PASSING OUT...

IF IT'S ANY COMFORT... I CAN ASSURE YOU SHE FELT VERY LITTLE *PAIN!*

...AND THE *NEXT* MOMENT... *CHOKED!*

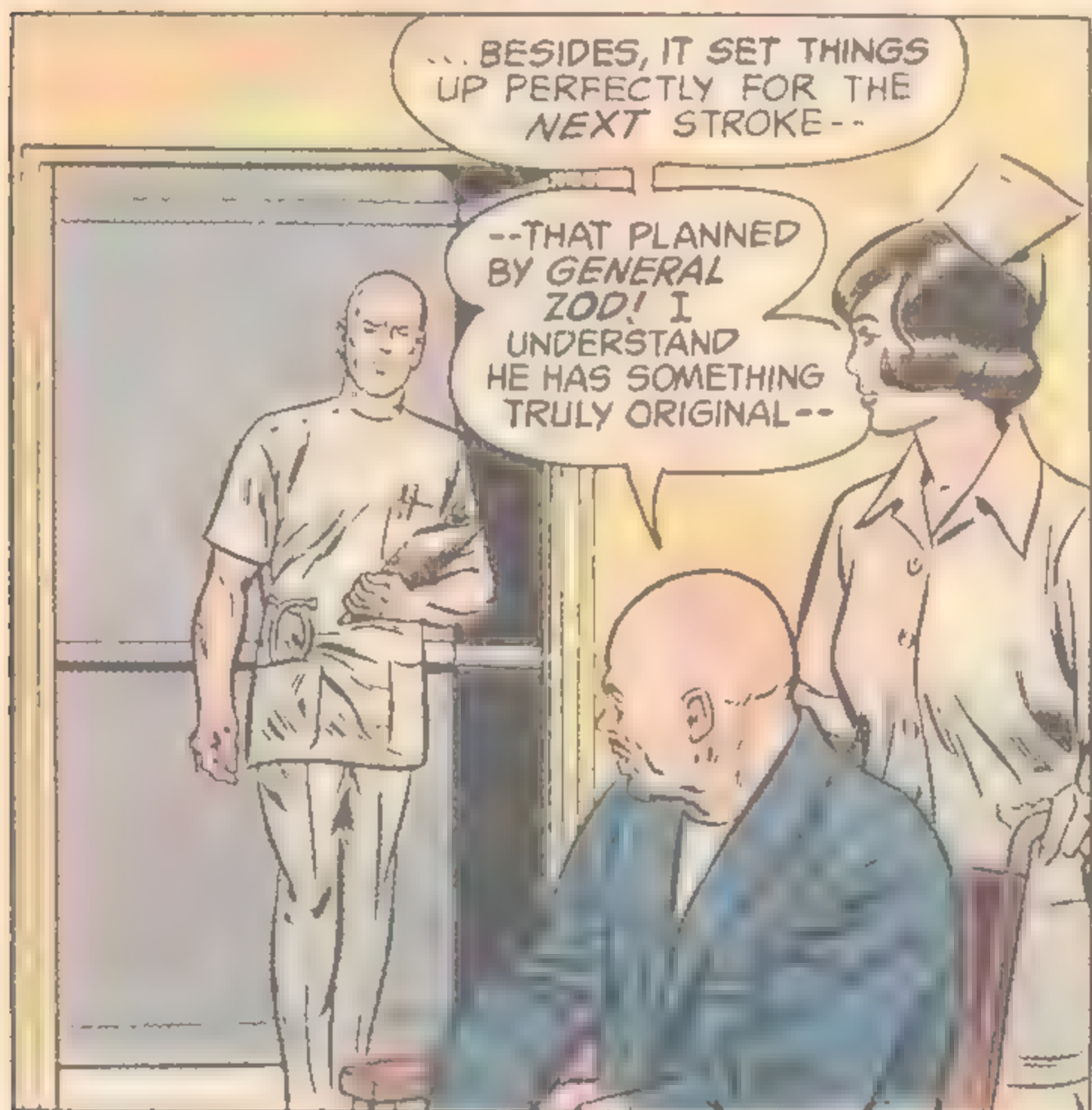


OH, *LOIS*... *SOB!*... POOR, POOR *LOIS*...



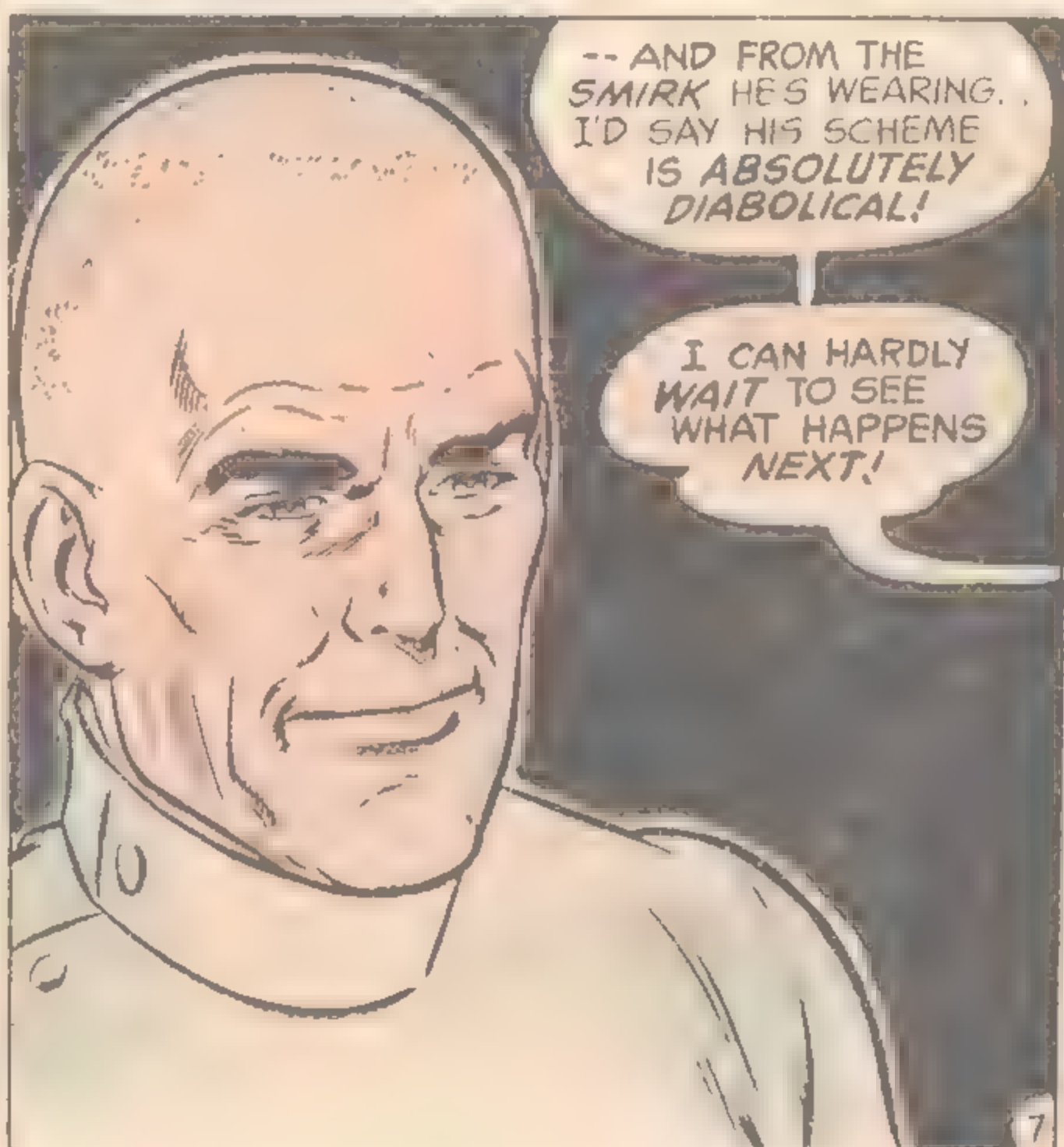
THE *COLLIDING* CAPSULES WERE A *BEAUTIFUL* TOUCH, *JAX*... BUT I'M NOT SURE YOU SHOULD HAVE TAKEN *LOIS LANE'S* LIFE!

BUT IT WAS THE *PERFECT* TOUCH, DEAR *FAORA*...



... BESIDES, IT SET THINGS UP PERFECTLY FOR THE *NEXT* STROKE--

--THAT PLANNED BY *GENERAL ZOD!* I UNDERSTAND HE HAS SOMETHING TRULY ORIGINAL--



-- AND FROM THE *SMIRK* HE'S WEARING, I'D SAY HIS SCHEME IS *ABSOLUTELY* *DIABOLICAL!*

I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS *NEXT!*

AND THE NEXT THING *SUPERMAN* HEARS IS...

TIME TO *RISE* AND *SHINE*, DARLING! CLARK KENT HAS A *BIG DAY* AHEAD OF HIM, SO I'LL GET OUT YOUR *BEST SUIT*!

I MEAN, IT ISN'T EVERY DAY *GALAXY'S* TOP REPORTER GETS THE *FIRST* EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE RETURNING *MARS* ASTRONAUTS!

AND ON A *GLOBAL SATELLITE* HOOK-UP YET! I HEAR IT'S EVEN GOING TO OUR *NASA* BASE ON THE *MOON*!

SORRY I DON'T HAVE TIME TO COOK BREAKFAST, SWEETHEART ... BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR *MARRYING* A *WORKING GIRL*!

HAVE A NICE DAY, LUV!

?!/? WHAT ON *KRYPTON* IS GOING ON HERE?? HOW DID I GET INTO A *STRANGE BED*... IN A *STRANGE APARTMENT*? AND WHAT'S *LANA* DOING HERE?

AND AFTER THE BEAUTIFUL *REDHEAD* HAS SASHAYED OUT OF THE ROOM...

BY *RAO*! DID I HEAR *LANA* SAY I'D MARRIED HER? SEEMS TO ME I WOULD'VE *REMEMBERED* SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

AND NOW THAT I *THINK* ABOUT IT... WHY DID *LANA* LOOK *DIFFERENT* TO ME-- AS IF... AS IF...

...AS IF SHE WERE *TEN YEARS* OLDER??!

NO--NO--NO!! IT CAN'T BE *1988*... THIS HAS TO BE SOME SORT OF *FANTASTIC HOAX*!

AND ONE SWEEPING SCAN OF *X-RAY VISION* ACROSS THE CITY OUTSIDE SHOULD *EXPOSE* THIS *PUT-ON*!

GASP SO MUCH FOR MY "*HOAX*" THEORY!

I WONDER... IS THIS HOW IT FEELS TO BE *LOSING ONE'S MIND*?

THE PENGUIN

IN

"PENGUINS ON PARADE"

LOOK! A PARADE
OF EMPEROR
PENGUINS!

MUST BE AN
ADVERTISING GIMMICK!

YOU AREN'T LOOKING
AT PENGUINS, M'DEAR!
THEY ARE PUPPETS
IN A PECUNIARY
PLOT. WHICH WILL
SOON THICKEN.



WHILE EVERYBODY'S
ATTENTION IS ENGAGED
BY MY PENGUINS, I SHALL
TAKE POSSESSION OF THE
EMPEROR'S SWORD, A
KING'S RANSOM IN
GEMS AND HISTORY.



WELL, WELL, WELL.
SOMEBODY HAS LEFT
SOME *HOSTESS*[®]
FRUIT PIES EASILY
ACCESSIBLE. *APPLE*
AND *CHERRY*. I THINK
A LITTLE STOPOVER
TO ENJOY SOME
WOULD NOT
BE AMISS.



WE PUT EMPEROR
PENGUINS AND THE
EMPEROR'S SWORD
TOGETHER AND
KNEW YOU HAD
TO BE NEAR.

AND THANKS
TO *HOSTESS*
FRUIT PIES,
YOU'RE NOT
ONLY NEAR,
BUT CAUGHT.



OH, WELL, I DIDN'T
GET A FORTUNE IN
GEMS... BUT I DID
GET THE *LIGHT*,
TENDER CRUST,
THE *REAL FRUIT*
FILLING OF
HOSTESS *FRUIT*
PIES. THE DAY
WASN'T A
TOTAL LOSS.



YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT
IN EVERY BITE
OF *HOSTESS* *FRUIT PIES*





NOW!

TWICE THE EXCITEMENT!

Detective Comics

Starring the entire



Featuring

BATMAN by Starlin & Russell

PLUS BONUS FEATURES:

THE DEMON by Wein & Golden

AND BAT-MITE'S N.Y. ADVENTURE!

ON SALE
NOW!



BATMAN



ROBIN



DEMON



HUMAN TARGET



BRUCE WAYNE



COMMISSIONER
GORDON



BATGIRL



MAN-BAT



ALFRED

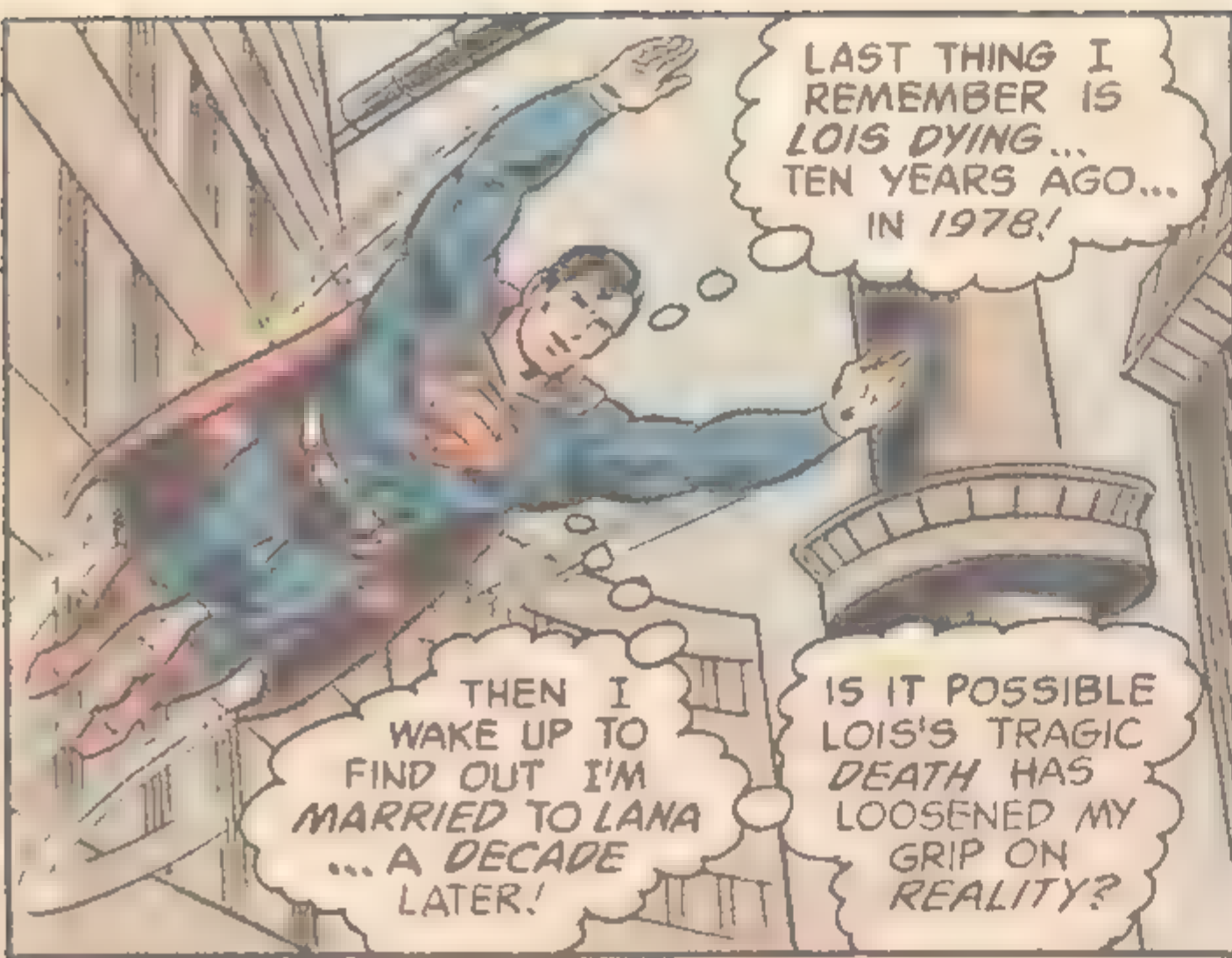
**AND COMING SOON...
OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY!**

**BATMAN RETURNS TO
CRIME ALLEY...
WILL HE LEAVE IT
CRIME FIGHTER...
OR KILLER?**

**PLUS BONUS FEATURES:
THE DEMON AND
THE HUMAN TARGET**



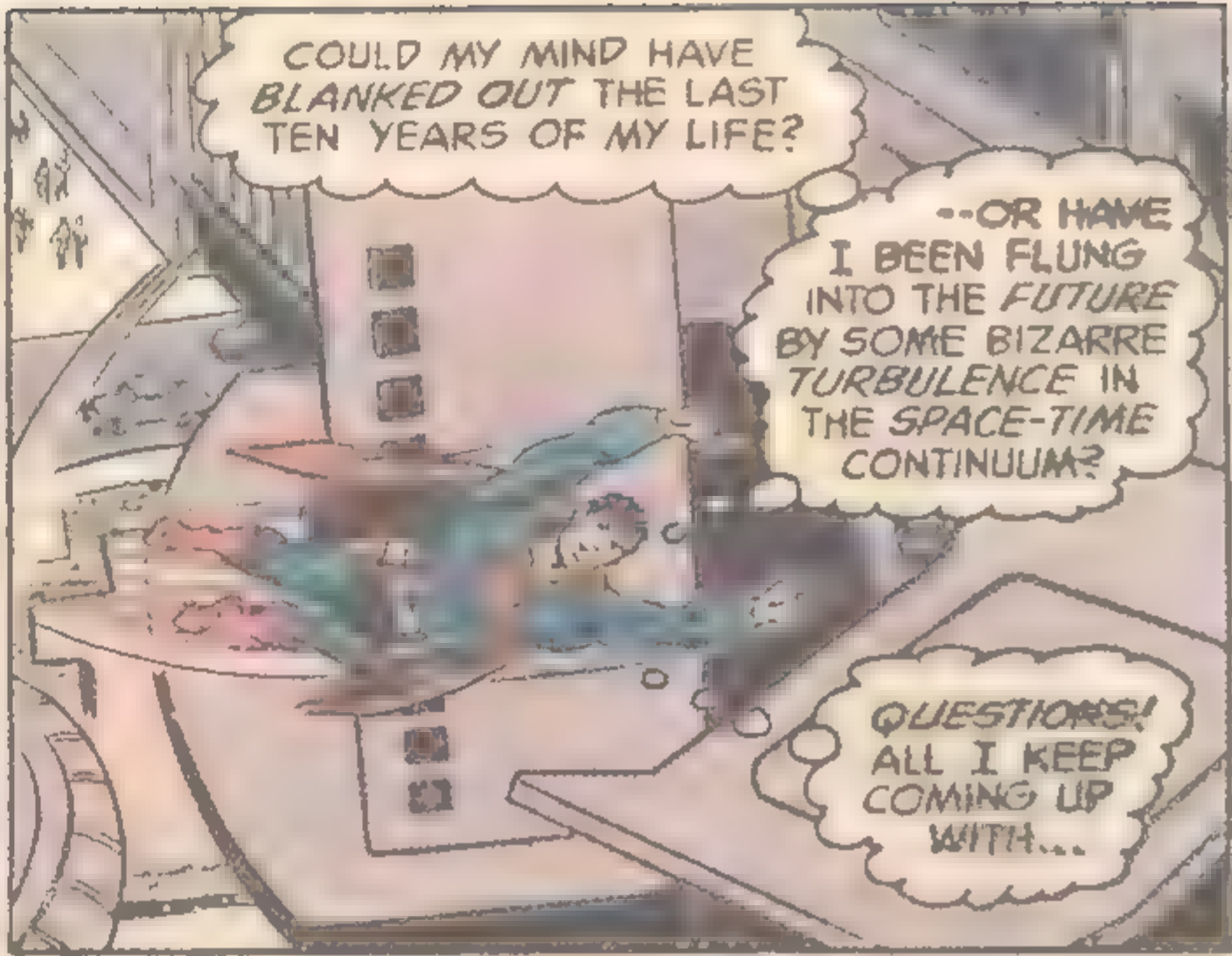
ON SALE IN MID-JANUARY



LAST THING I
REMEMBER IS
LOIS DYING...
TEN YEARS AGO...
IN 1978!

THEN I
WAKE UP TO
FIND OUT I'M
MARRIED TO LANA
...A DECADE
LATER!

IS IT POSSIBLE
LOIS'S TRAGIC
DEATH HAS
LOOSENED MY
GRIP ON
REALITY?



COULD MY MIND HAVE
BLANKED OUT THE LAST
TEN YEARS OF MY LIFE?

--OR HAVE
I BEEN FLUNG
INTO THE FUTURE
BY SOME BIZARRE
TURBULENCE IN
THE SPACE-TIME
CONTINUUM?

QUESTIONS!
ALL I KEEP
COMING UP
WITH...



... ARE UNANSWERABLE
QUESTIONS!

NOW WHAT-- I'M FADING
AWAY?! MAYBE... HOPEFULLY...
THIS WILL BRING ME CLOSER
TO SOME ANSWERS!



WE HAVE HIM!
OUR TELEPORTATION-
LOCK WAS RIGHT ON
TARGET!

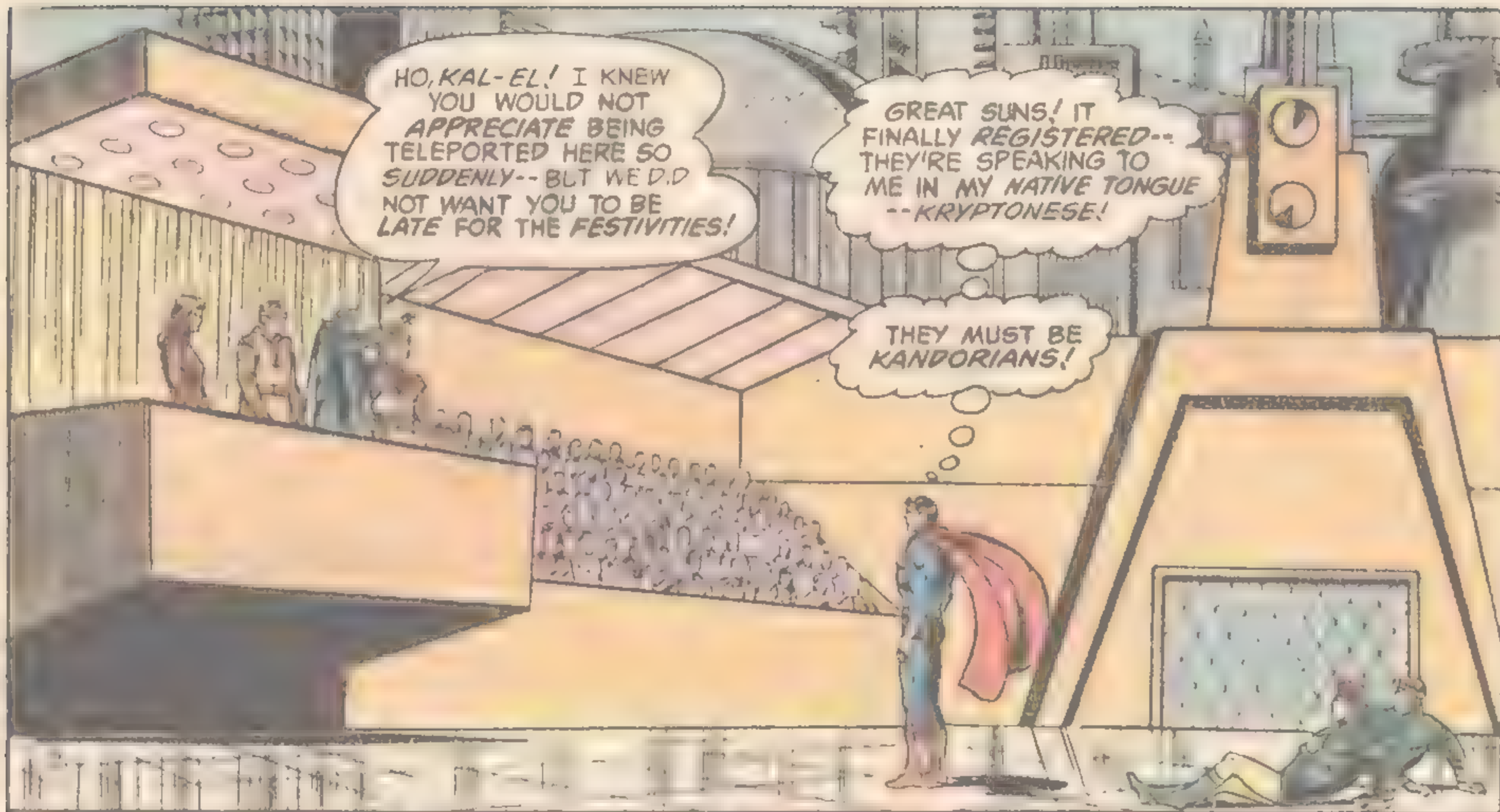
?! I'VE BEEN
KIDNAPPED!

AND FROM THE
PRESSURE OF THESE ARM
GRIPS-- I'D SAY MY ABDUCTORS
POSSESS SUPER-STRENGTH
EQUAL TO MY
OWN!

BUT I
STILL HAVE THE
ADVANTAGE!
BECAUSE UNLIKE
THEIR
STRENGTH--

--MINE HAS BEEN BOOSTED
BY THE RAGING ANGER BUILDING
UP INSIDE ME!

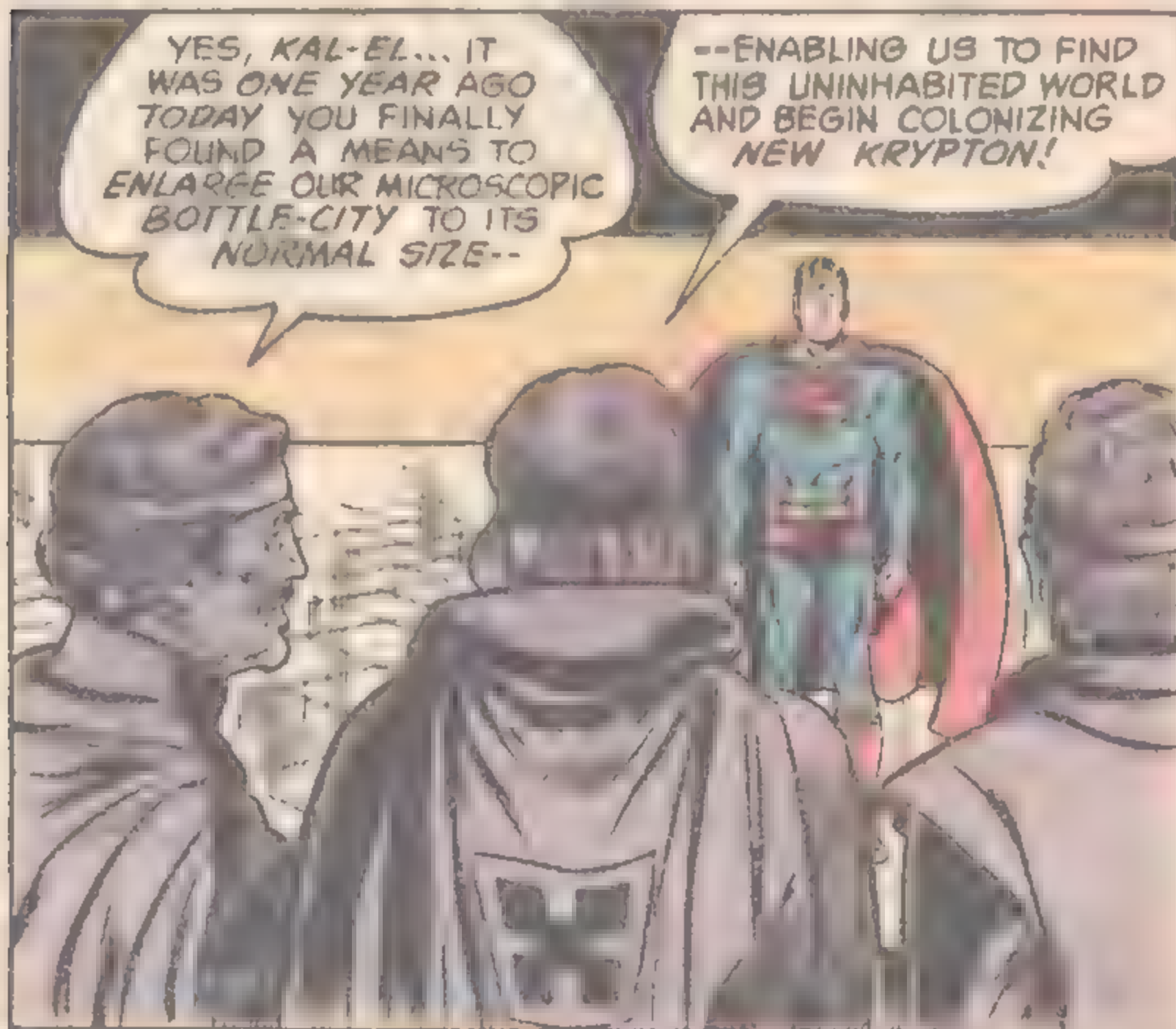




HO, KAL-EL! I KNEW YOU WOULD NOT APPRECIATE BEING TELEPORTED HERE SO SUDDENLY-- BUT WE'D NOT WANT YOU TO BE LATE FOR THE FESTIVITIES!

GREAT SUNS! IT FINALLY REGISTERED-- THEY'RE SPEAKING TO ME IN MY NATIVE TONGUE --KRYPTONESE!

THEY MUST BE KANDORIANS!



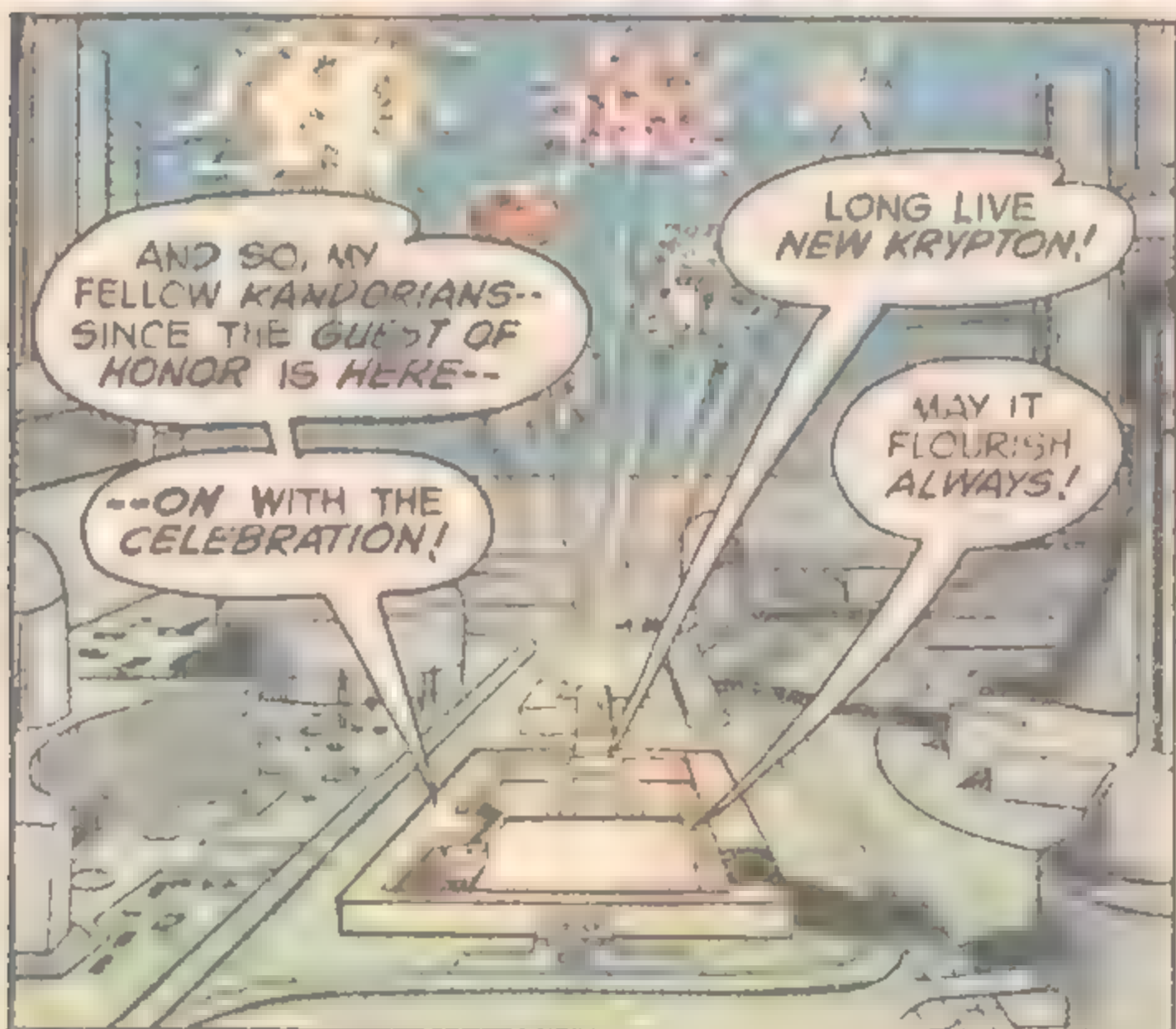
YES, KAL-EL... IT WAS ONE YEAR AGO TODAY YOU FINALLY FOUND A MEANS TO ENLARGE OUR MICROSCOPIC BOTTLE-CITY TO ITS NORMAL SIZE--

--ENABLING US TO FIND THIS UNINHABITED WORLD AND BEGIN COLONIZING NEW KRYPTON!

INCREDIBLE! I VOWED TO MY KRYPTONIAN BROTHERS I'D SOMEDAY FREE KANDOR* FROM THE CONFINES OF THAT BOTTLE--

-- AND NOW I'M THE LAST ONE TO FIND OUT I FINALLY SUCCEEDED?!

*KANDOR--THE MAJESTIC KRYPTONIAN CITY SHRUNKEN TO MICROSCOPIC SIZE BY THE SPACE-VILLAIN BRAINIAC BEFORE KRYPTON EXPLODED! --JULIE

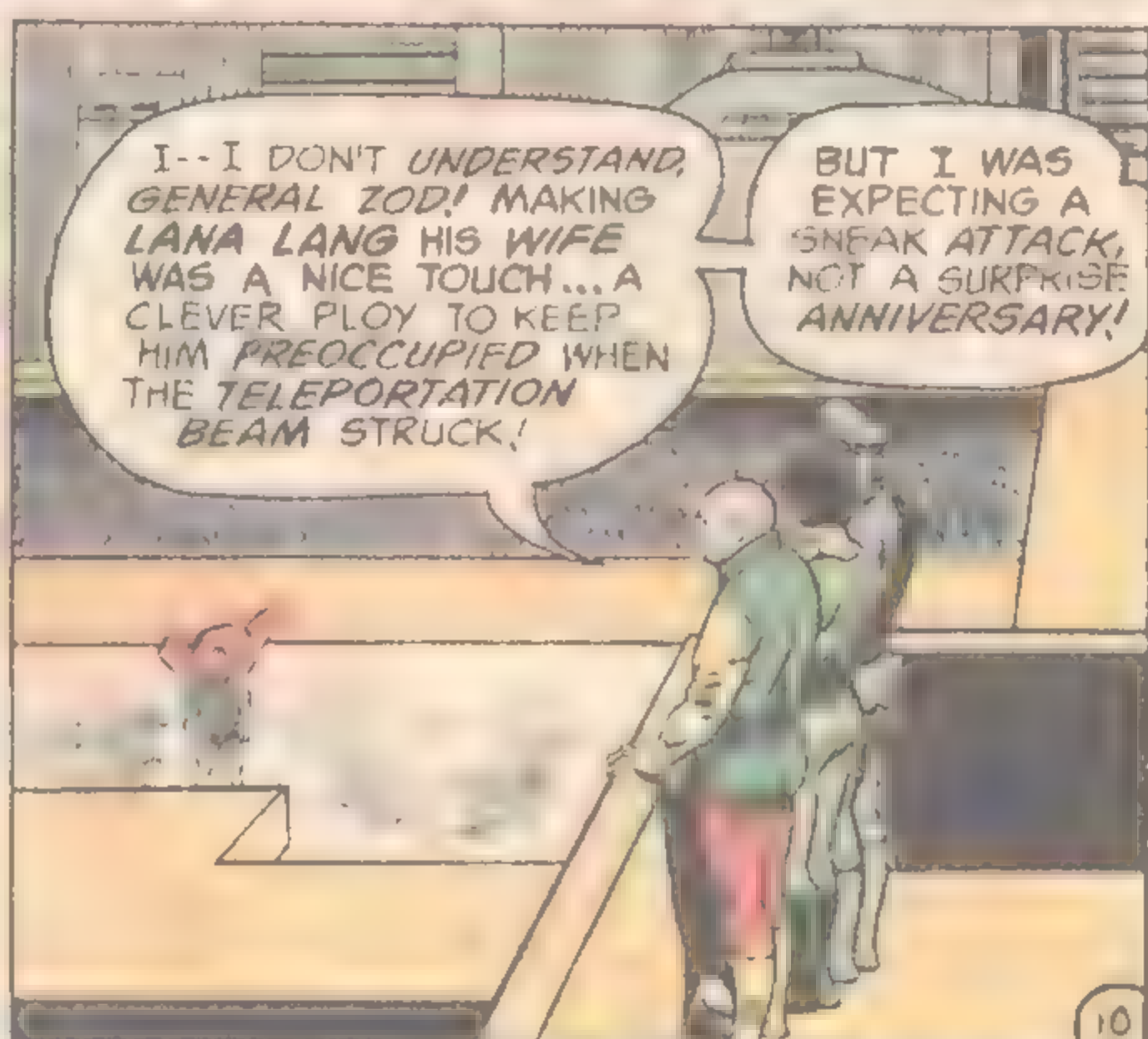


AND SO, MY FELLOW KANDORIANS-- SINCE THE GUEST OF HONOR IS HERE--

--ON WITH THE CELEBRATION!

LONG LIVE NEW KRYPTON!

MAY IT FLOURISH ALWAYS!



I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND, GENERAL ZOD! MAKING LANA LANG HIS WIFE WAS A NICE TOUCH... A CLEVER PLOY TO KEEP HIM PREOCCUPIED WHEN THE TELEPORTATION BEAM STRUCK!

BUT I WAS EXPECTING A SNEAK ATTACK, NOT A SURPRISE ANNIVERSARY!

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Remember How Many Times You Feel Left Out

Because You Were BROKE!

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WELL, FOUND. HEY! HE'S LEFT OUT AGAIN!

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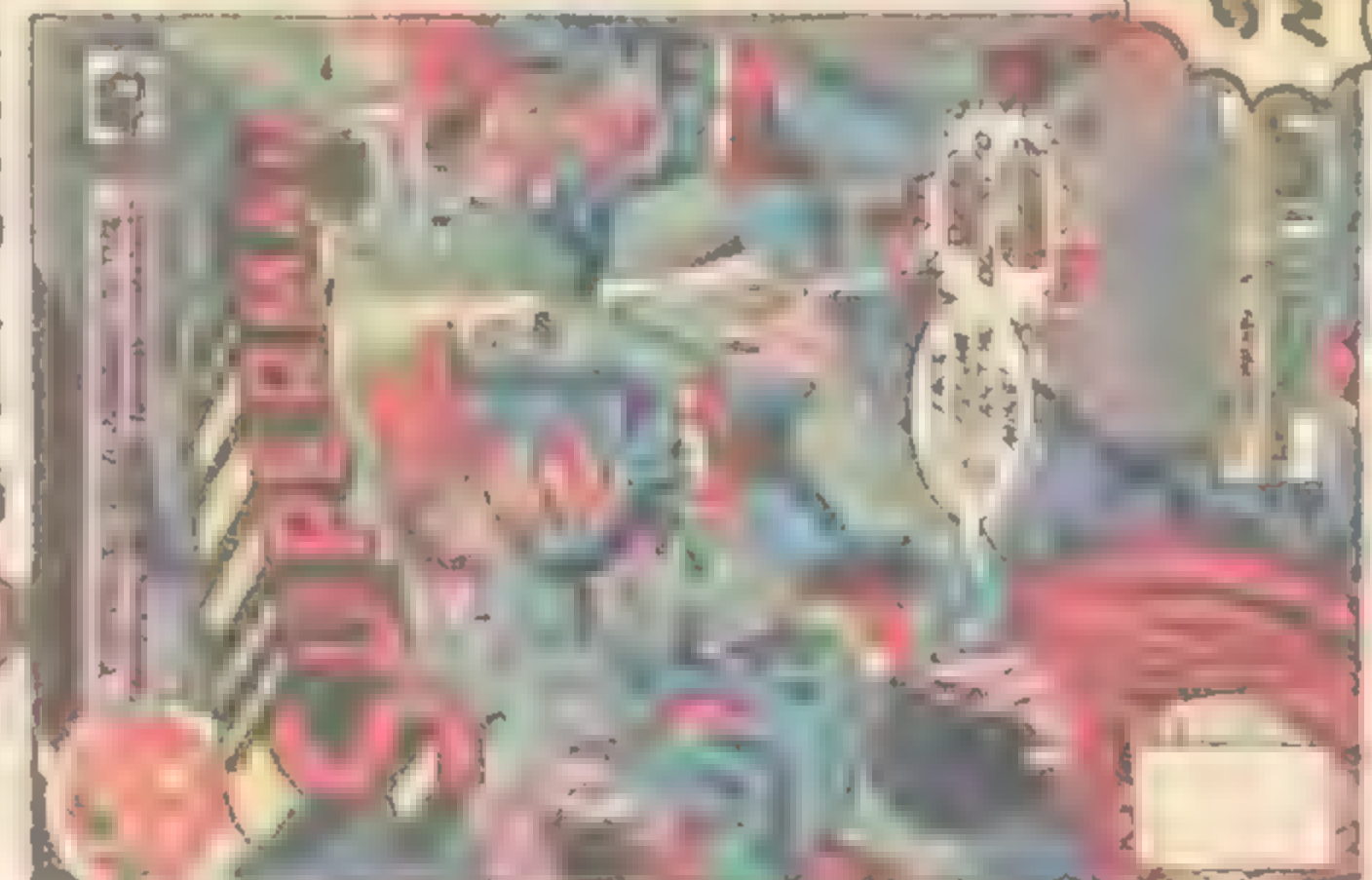
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HOW CAN YOU BE SO DENSE,
JAX-UR? ZOD'S CONTRIBUTION
WAS STUNNINGLY BRILLIANT!

IF EVERY FUTURE EVENT WE MANUFACTURE FOR
SUPERMAN'S BENEFIT PROVES TO BE UNPLEASANT--
WITH NO PLEASANTRIES TO BALANCE THEM OUT--

--HE MIGHT SUSPECT HOW WE ARE
DUPING HIM!



NEED I REMIND YOU HOW THE
YTRYM EFFECT OPERATES?
WHEN A KRYPTONIAN IS
TEETERING ON THE FINAL
THRESHOLD OF DEATH--

--KEY EVENTS OF WHAT WOULD
HAVE BEEN HIS FUTURE-LIFE FLASH-
BEFORE HIS MIND DURING THOSE
LAST MOMENTS!

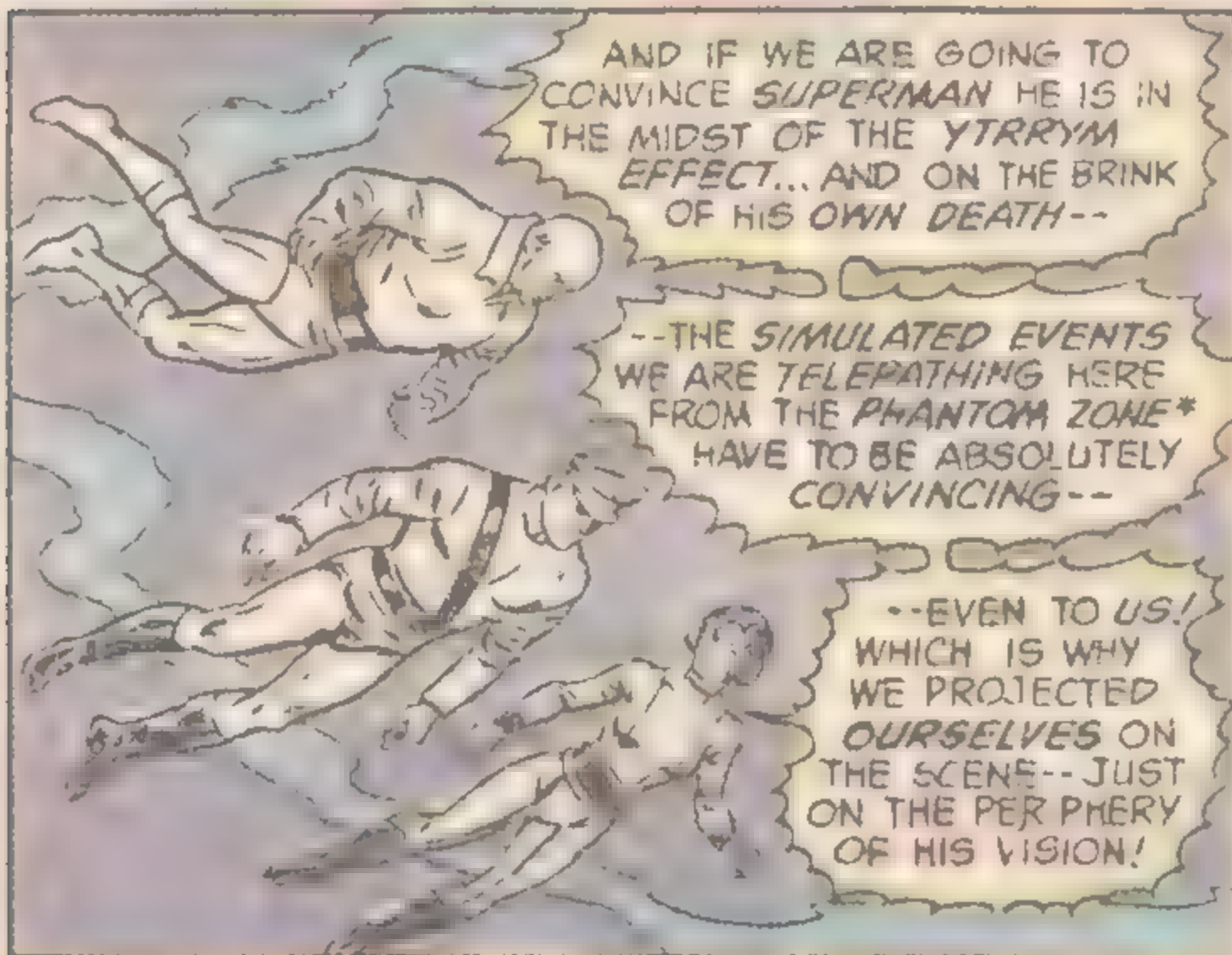


AND IF WE ARE GOING TO
CONVINCE SUPERMAN HE IS IN
THE MIDST OF THE YTRYM
EFFECT... AND ON THE BRINK
OF HIS OWN DEATH--

--THE SIMULATED EVENTS
WE ARE TELEPATHING HERE
FROM THE PHANTOM ZONE*
HAVE TO BE ABSOLUTELY
CONVINCING--

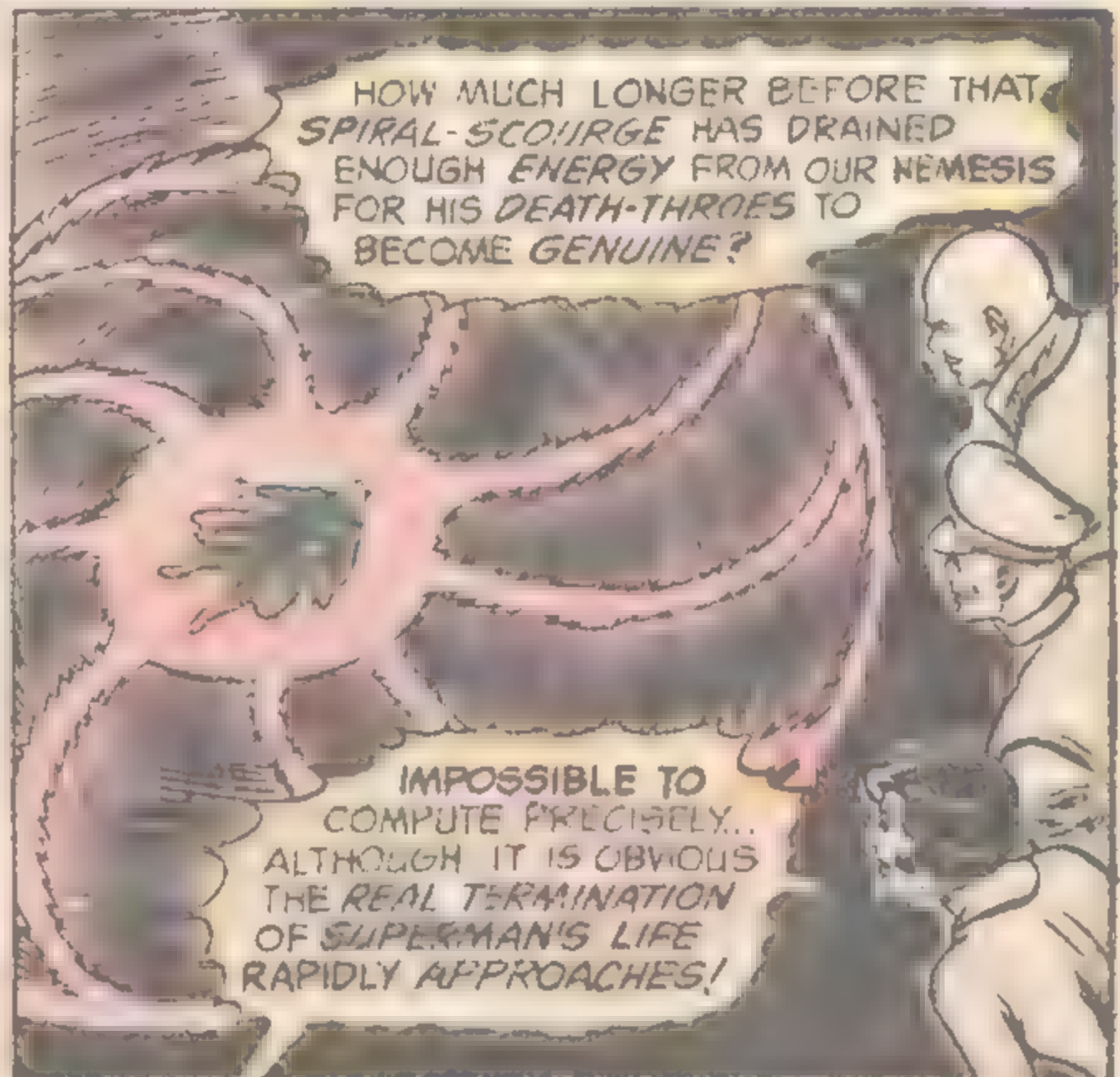
--EVEN TO US!
WHICH IS WHY
WE PROJECTED
OURSELVES ON
THE SCENE-- JUST
ON THE PERIPHERY
OF HIS VISION!

*THE TWILIGHT DIMENSION WHERE KRYPTONIAN
CRIMINALS HAVE BEEN FOREVER BANISHED! --JULIE



HOW MUCH LONGER BEFORE THAT
SPIRAL-SCOURGE HAS DRAINED
ENOUGH ENERGY FROM OUR NEMESIS
FOR HIS DEATH-THROES TO
BECOME GENUINE?

IMPOSSIBLE TO
COMPUTE PRECISELY...
ALTHOUGH IT IS OBVIOUS
THE REAL TERMINATION
OF SUPERMAN'S LIFE
RAPIDLY APPROACHES!

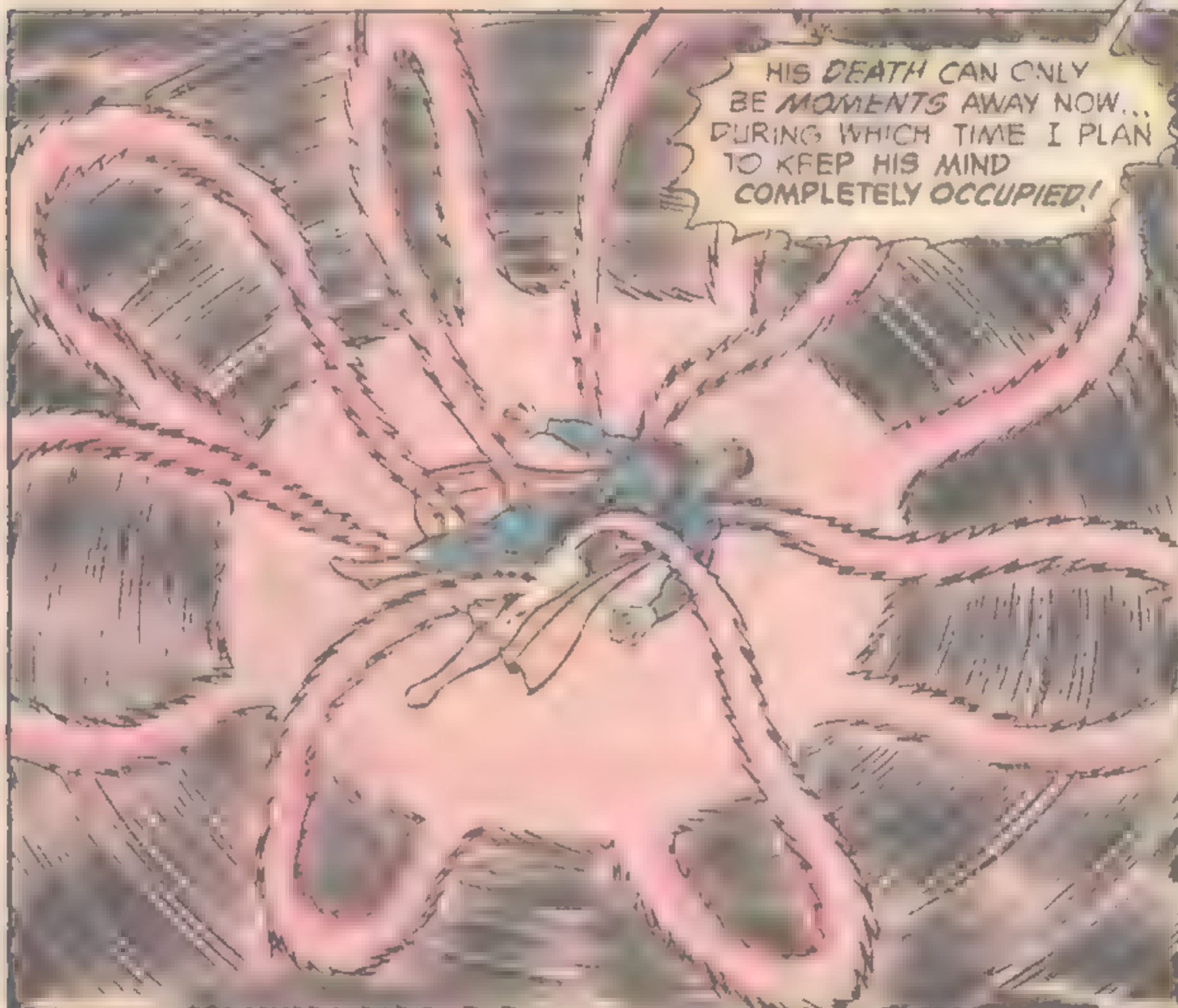


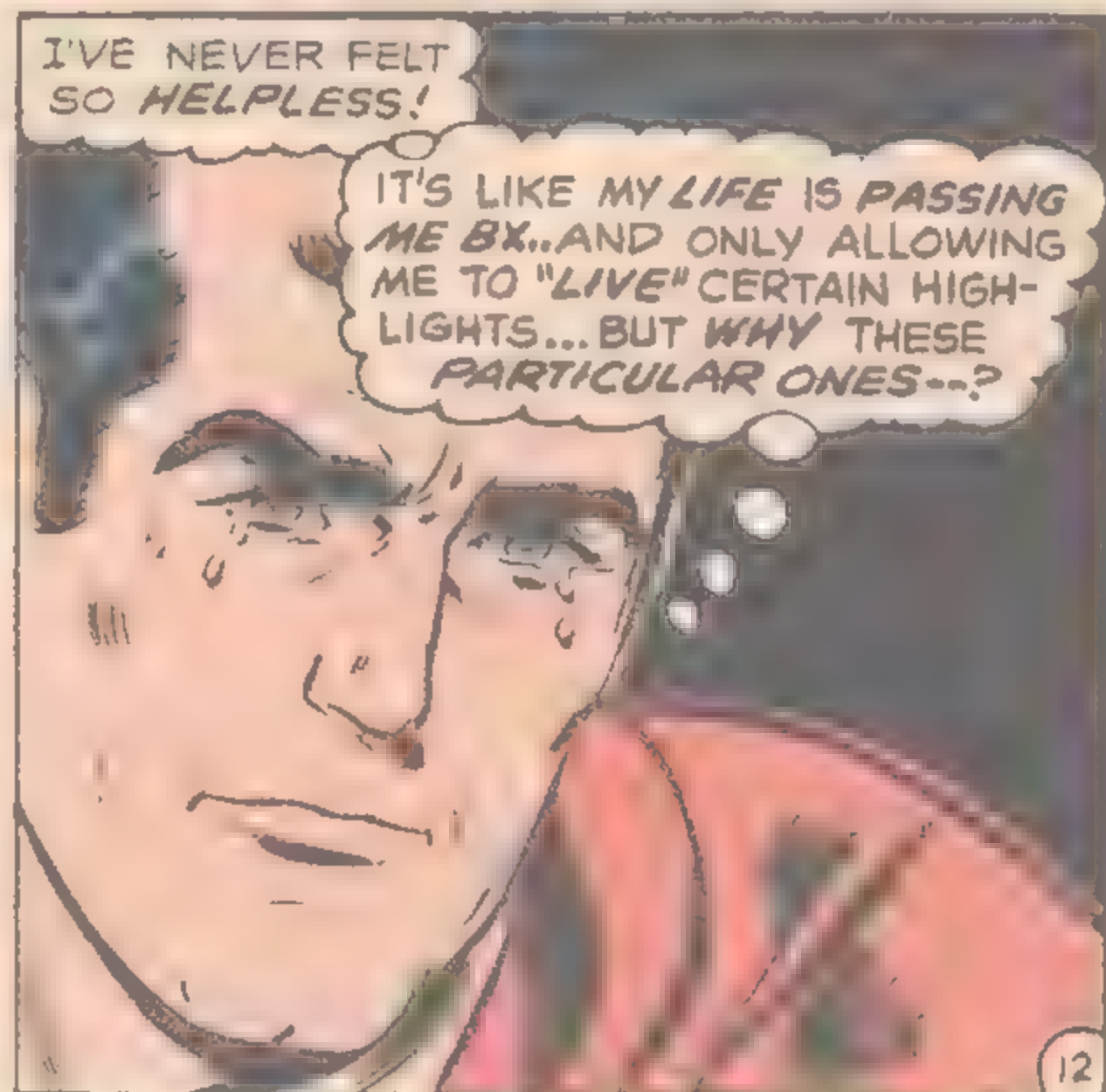
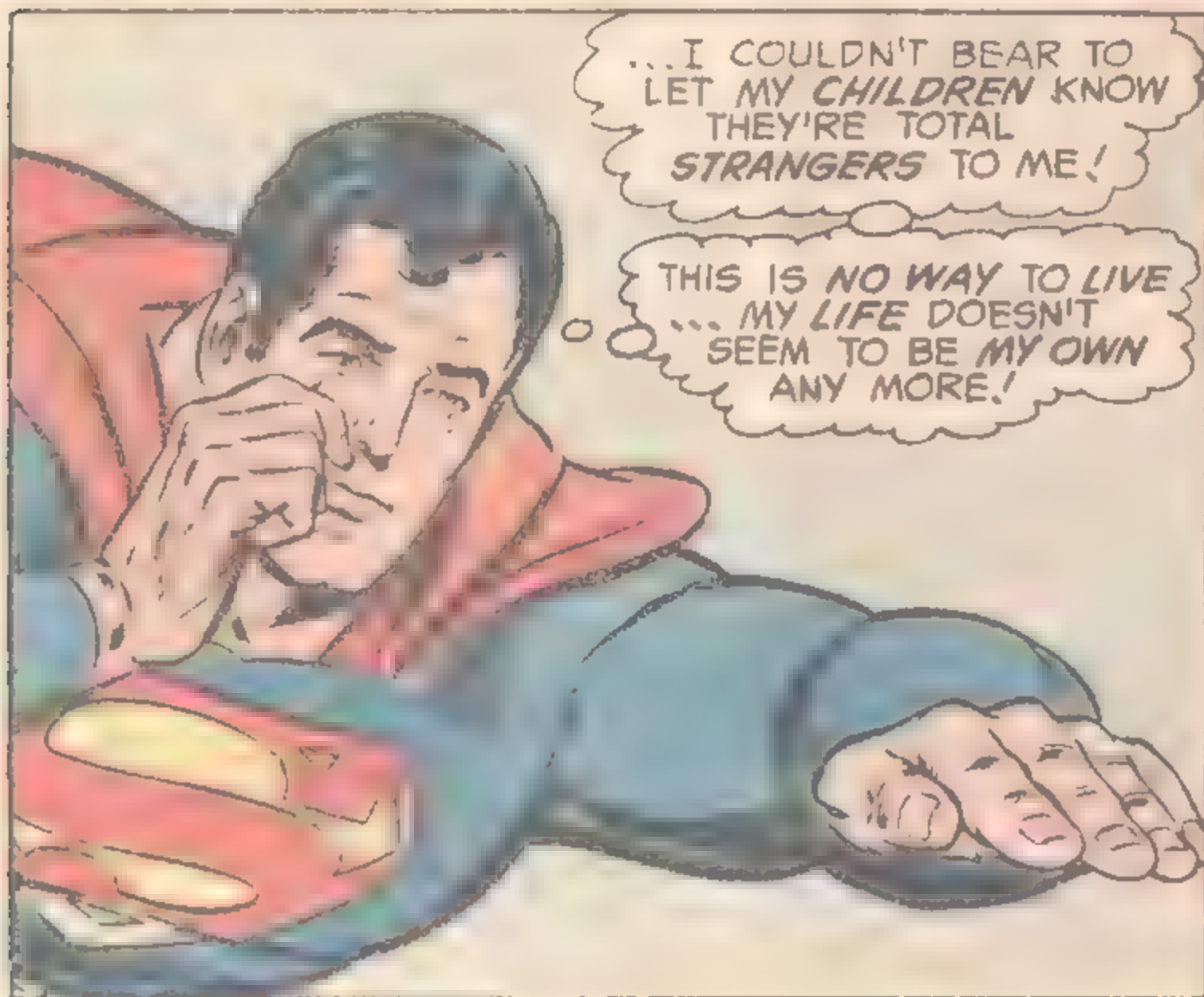
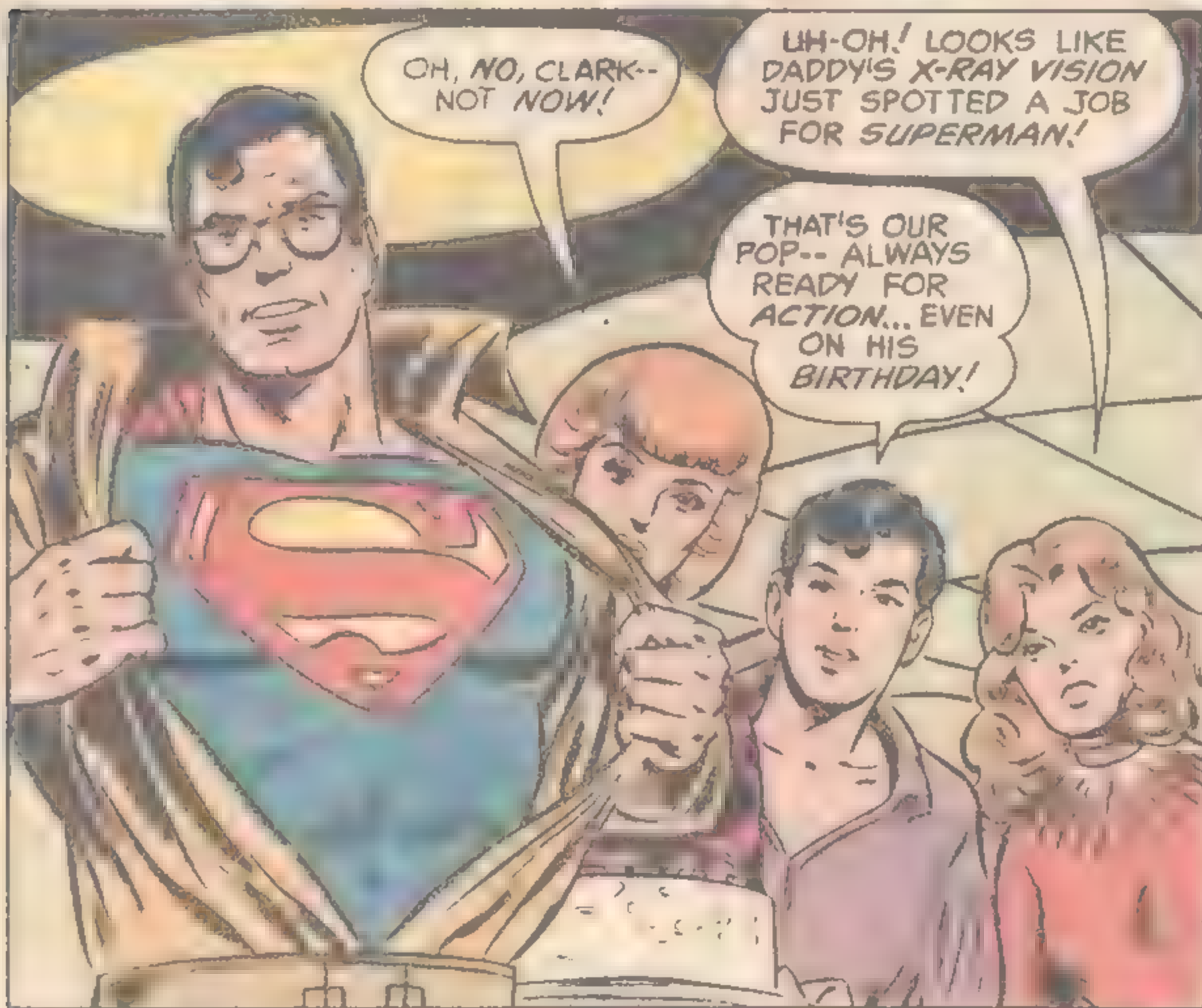
HIS DEATH CAN ONLY
BE MOMENTS AWAY NOW...
DURING WHICH TIME I PLAN
TO KEEP HIS MIND
COMPLETELY OCCUPIED!

ALL RIGHT,
FAORA--IT IS
FINALLY YOUR
TURN TO PLAY
MANIPULATOR!

I TRUST YOU
WILL MAKE THE
EXPERIENCE
TRULY
MEMORABLE
FOR US ALL--

--ESPECIALLY KAL-EL!







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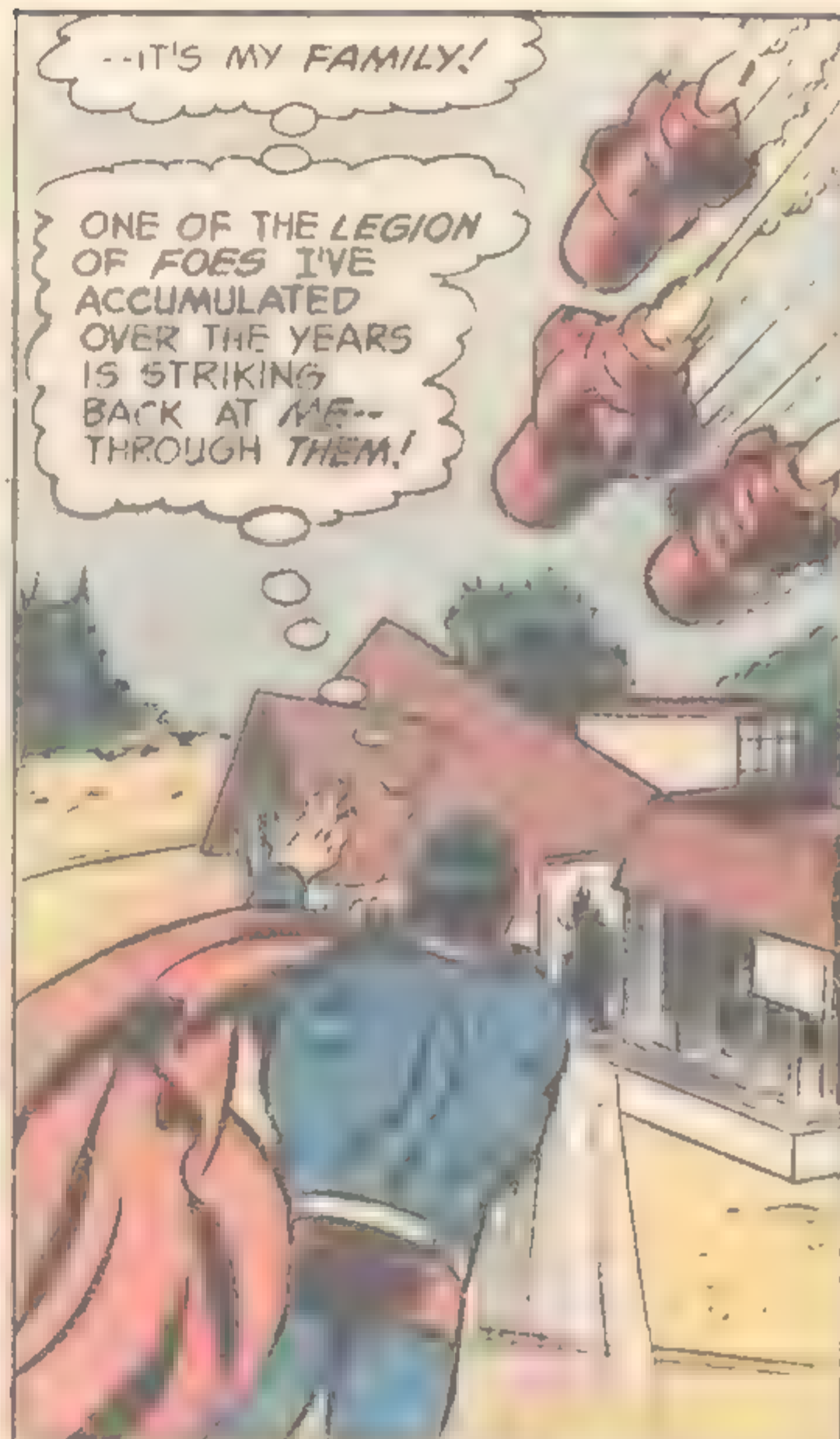
ODD... MY SUPER-HEARING IS PICKING UP THE SOUNDS OF TWO... NO, THREE... TURBO-EXHAUSTS RIGGED FOR QUIET RUNNING!

AND THEY SEEM TO BE...



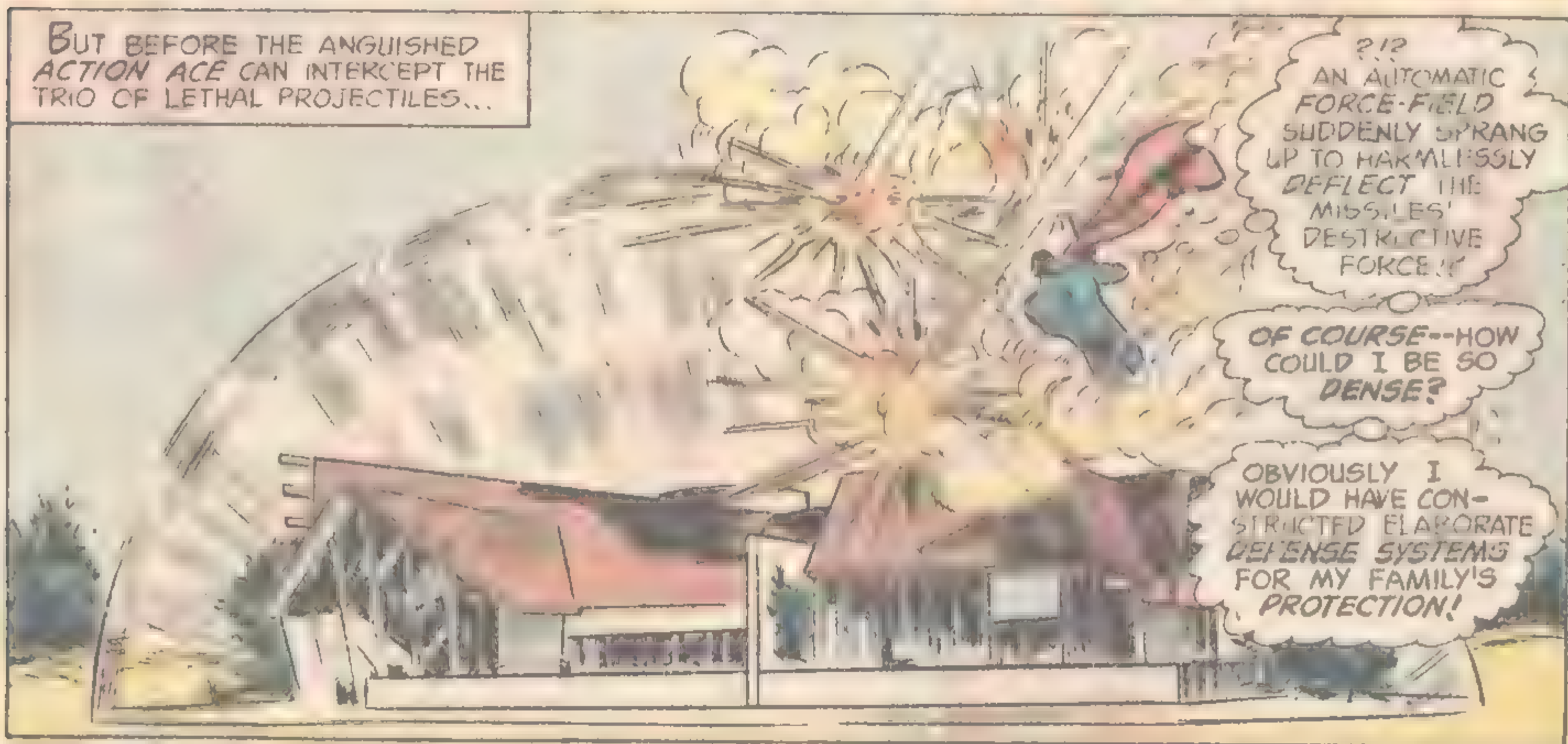
...ZEROING IN ON MY FLIGHT-PAT-

OH, NO! THE TARGET ISN'T ME--



--IT'S MY FAMILY!

ONE OF THE LEGION OF FOES I'VE ACCUMULATED OVER THE YEARS IS STRIKING BACK AT ME-- THROUGH THEM!



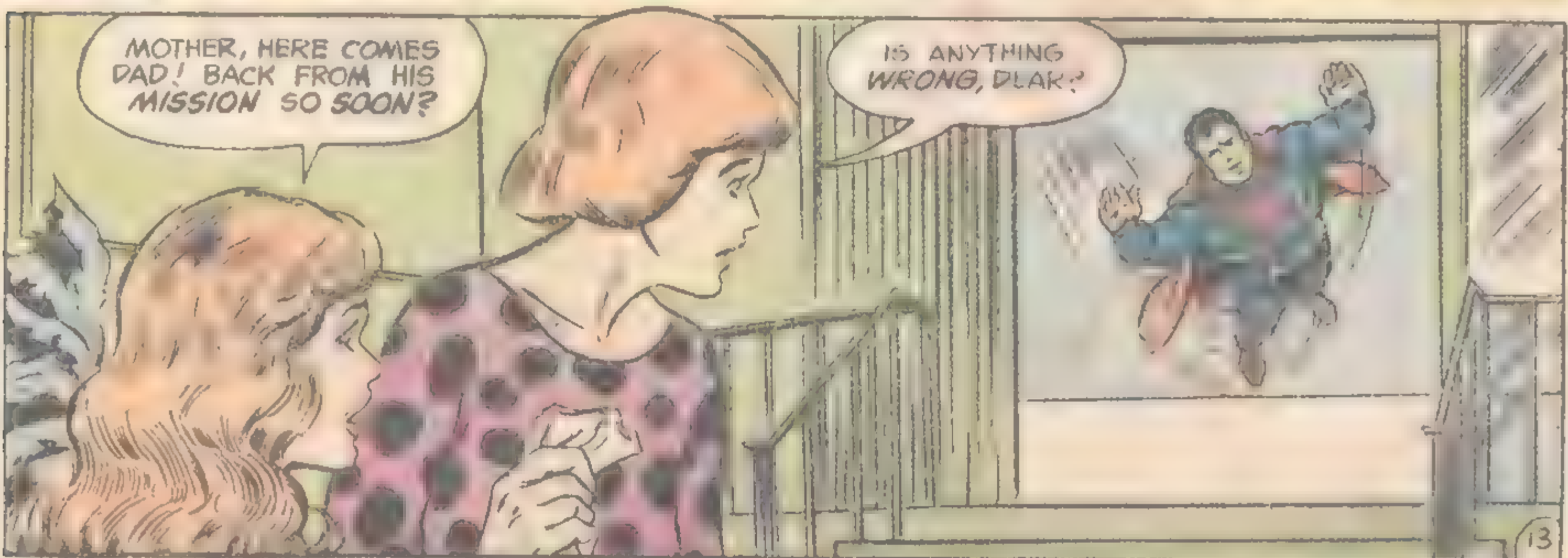
BUT BEFORE THE ANGUISHED ACTION ACE CAN INTERCEPT THE TRIO OF LETHAL PROJECTILES...

?!?

AN AUTOMATIC FORCE-FIELD SUDDENLY SPRANG UP TO HARMLESSLY DEFLECT THE MISSILES' DESTRUCTIVE FORCE!

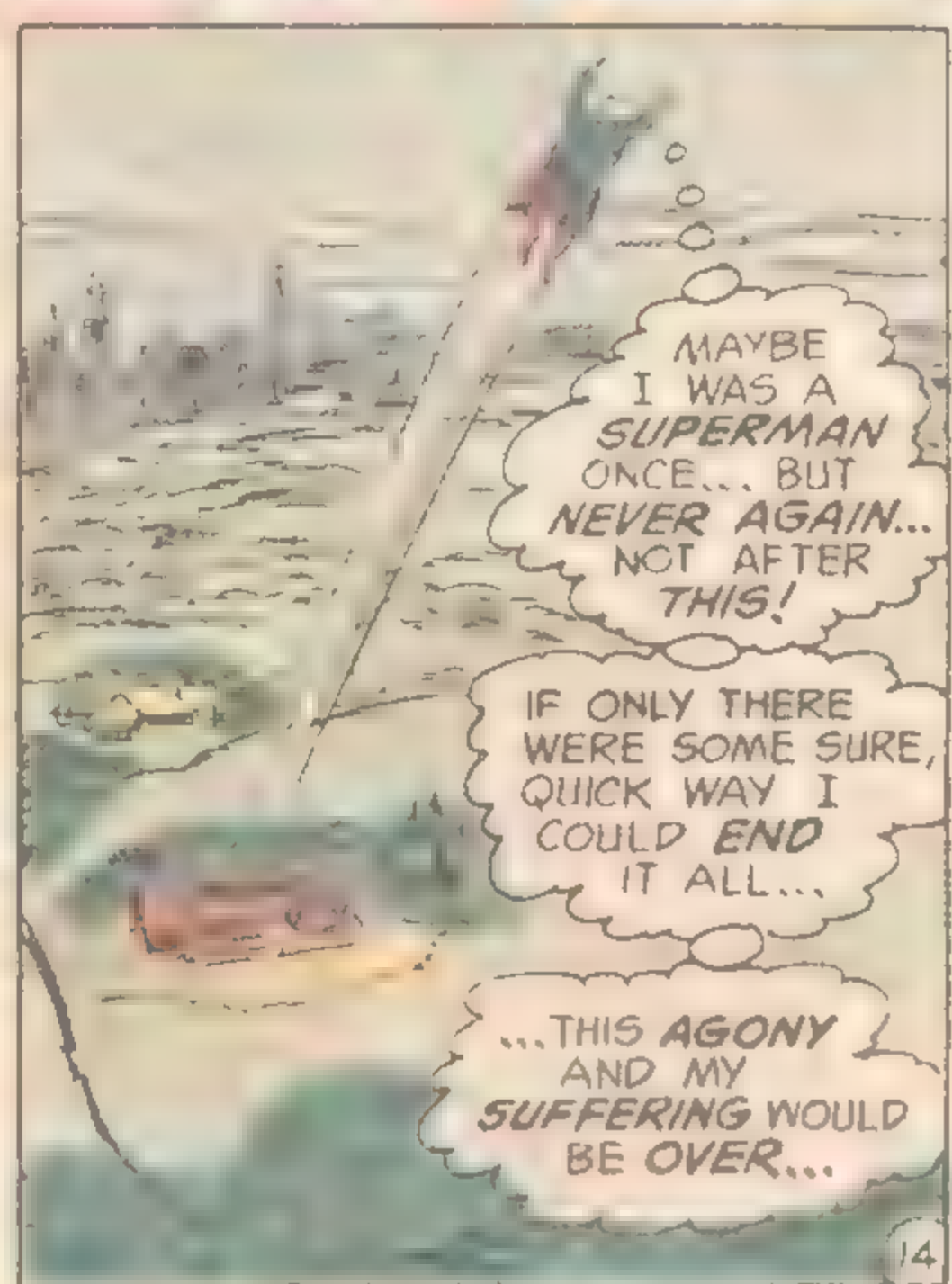
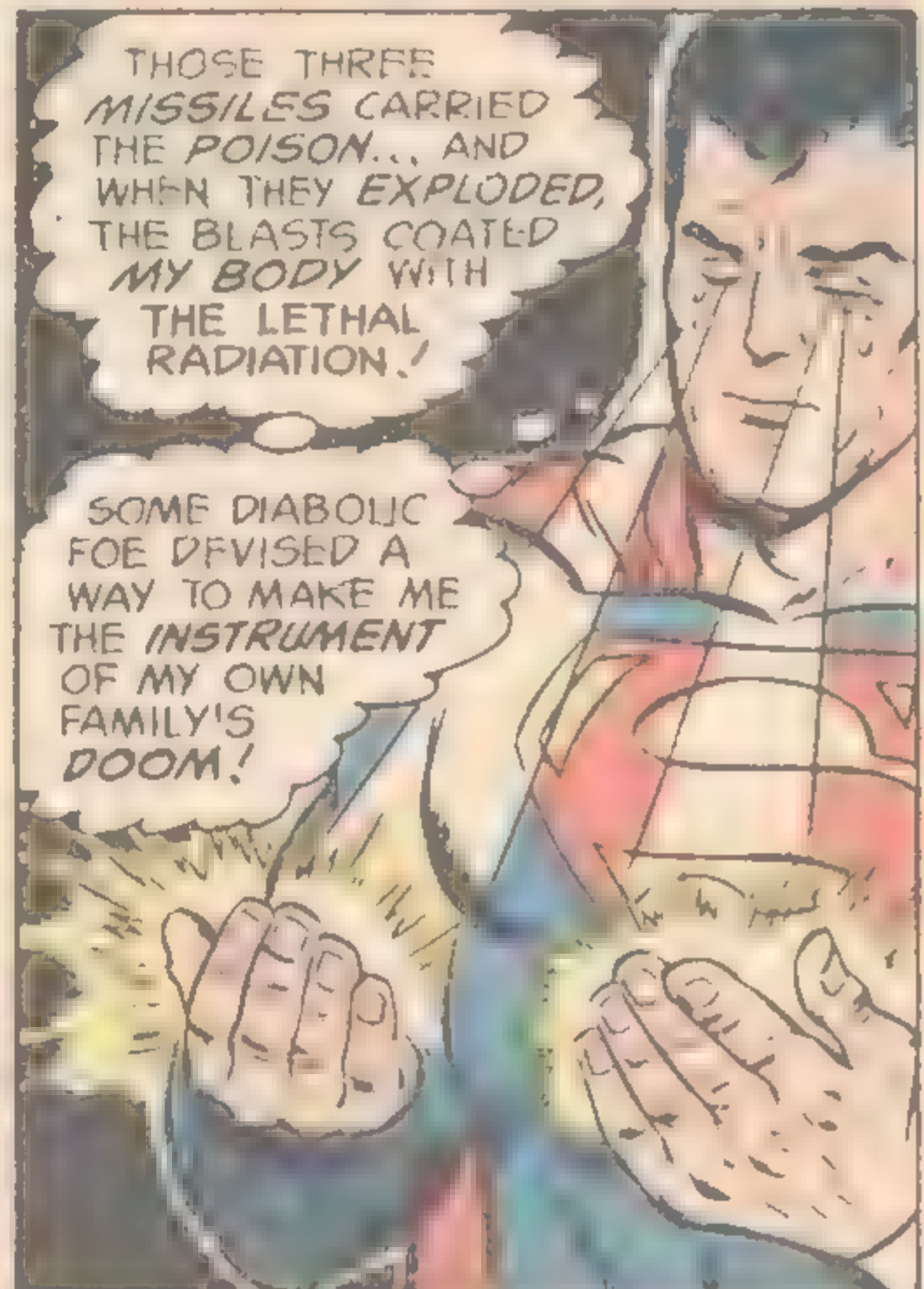
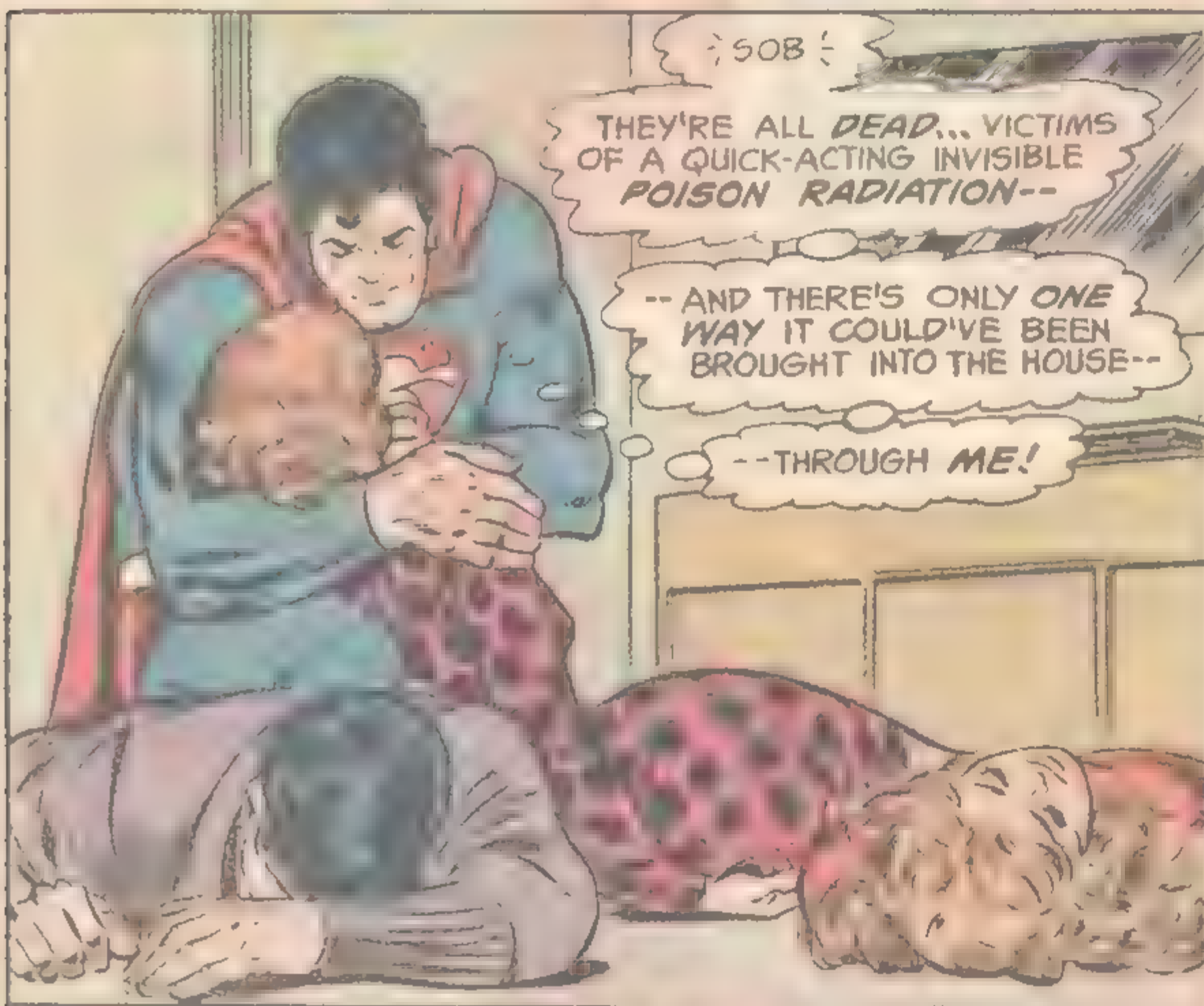
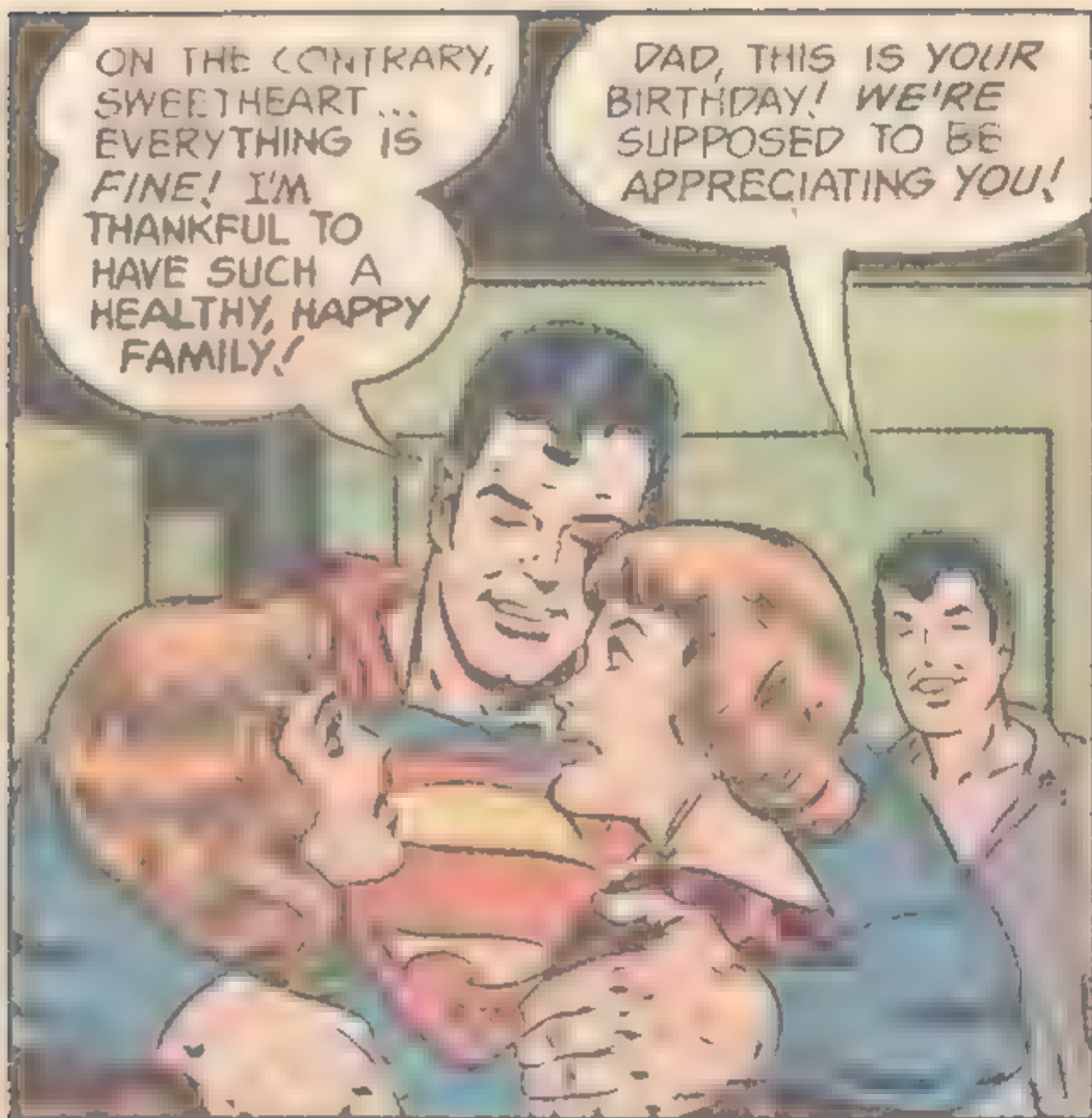
OF COURSE--HOW COULD I BE SO DENSE?

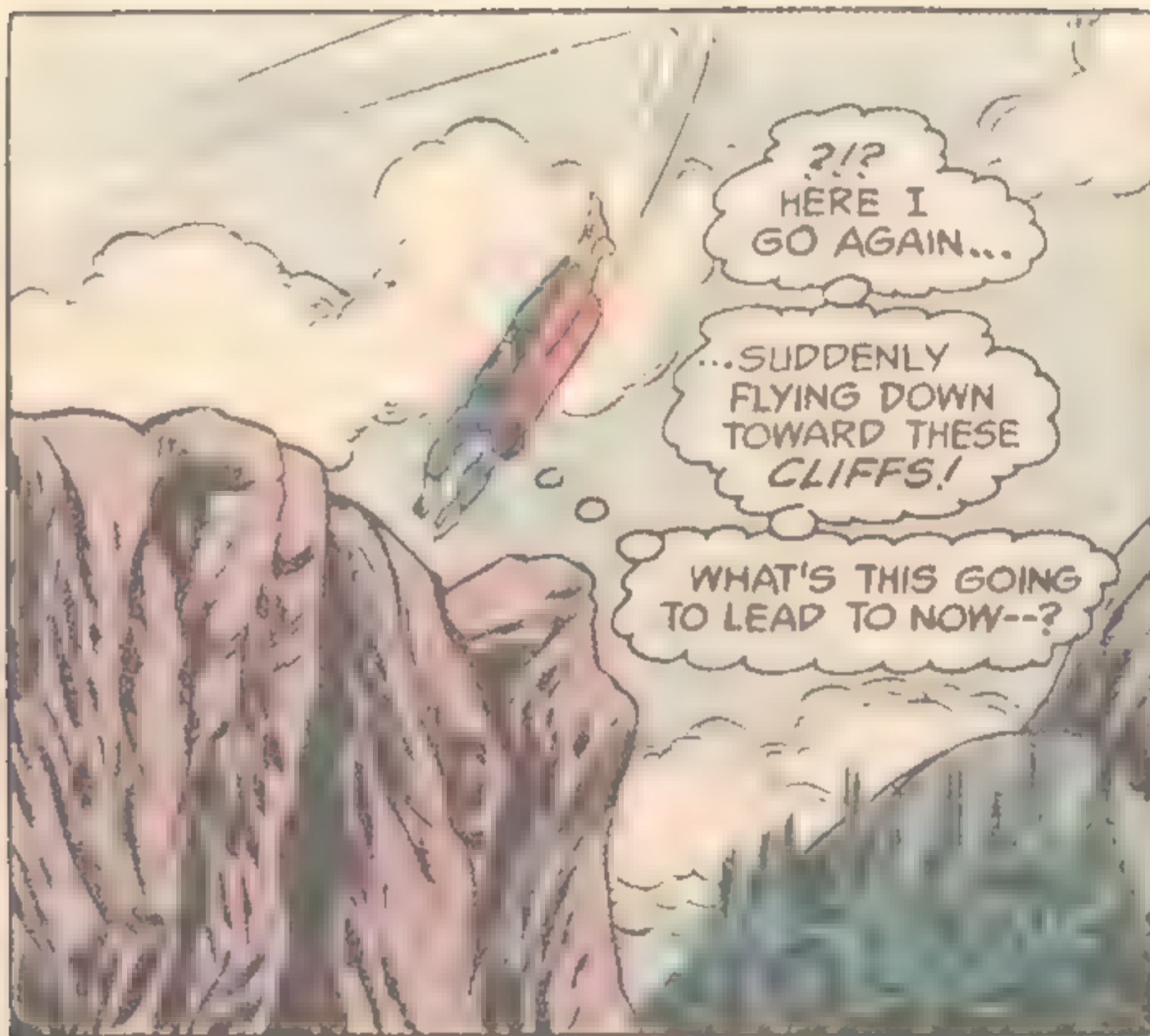
OBVIOUSLY I WOULD HAVE CONSTRUCTED ELABORATE DEFENSE SYSTEMS FOR MY FAMILY'S PROTECTION!



MOTHER, HERE COMES DAD! BACK FROM HIS MISSION SO SOON?

IS ANYTHING WRONG, DAD?

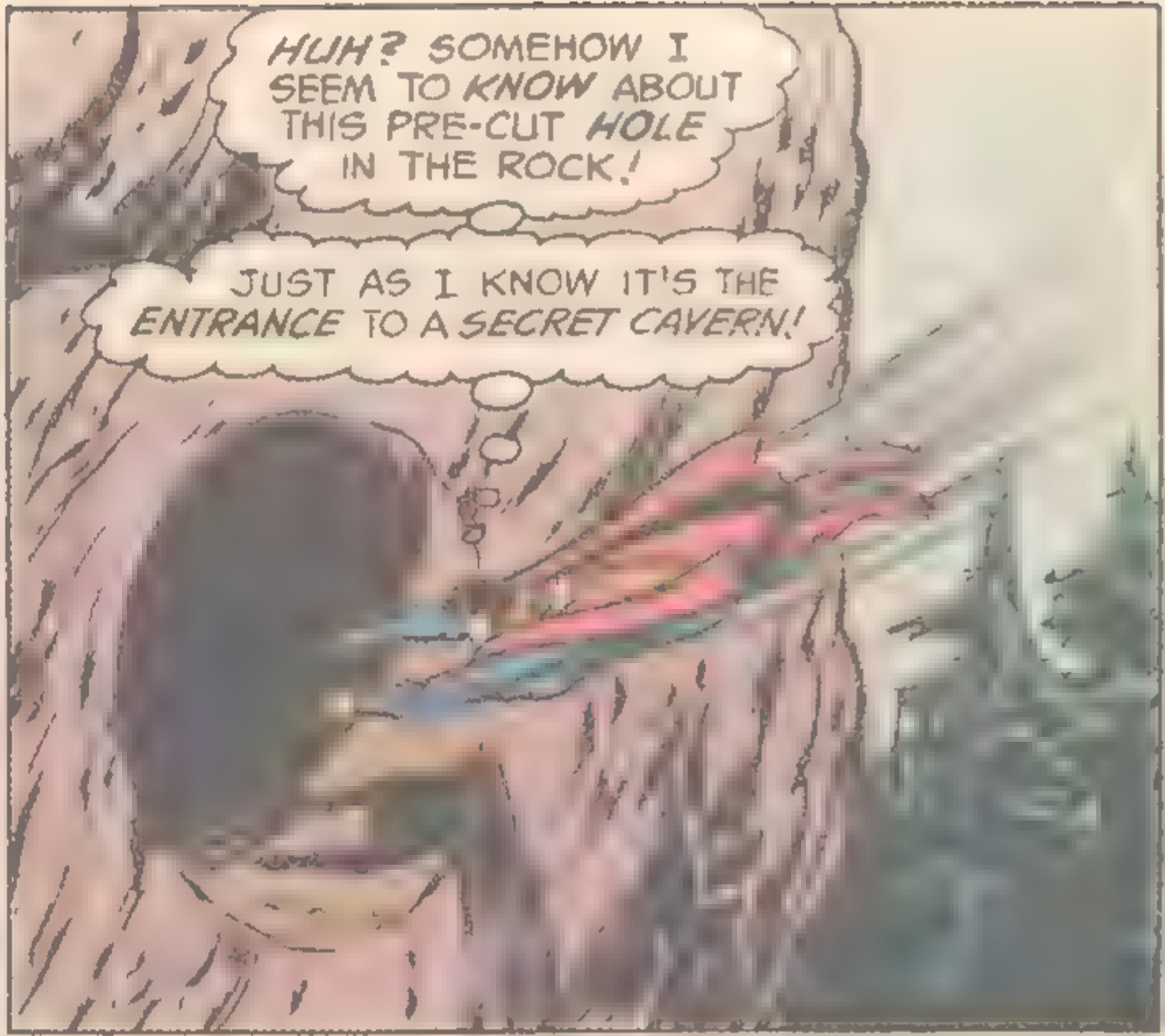




?!?
HERE I
GO AGAIN...

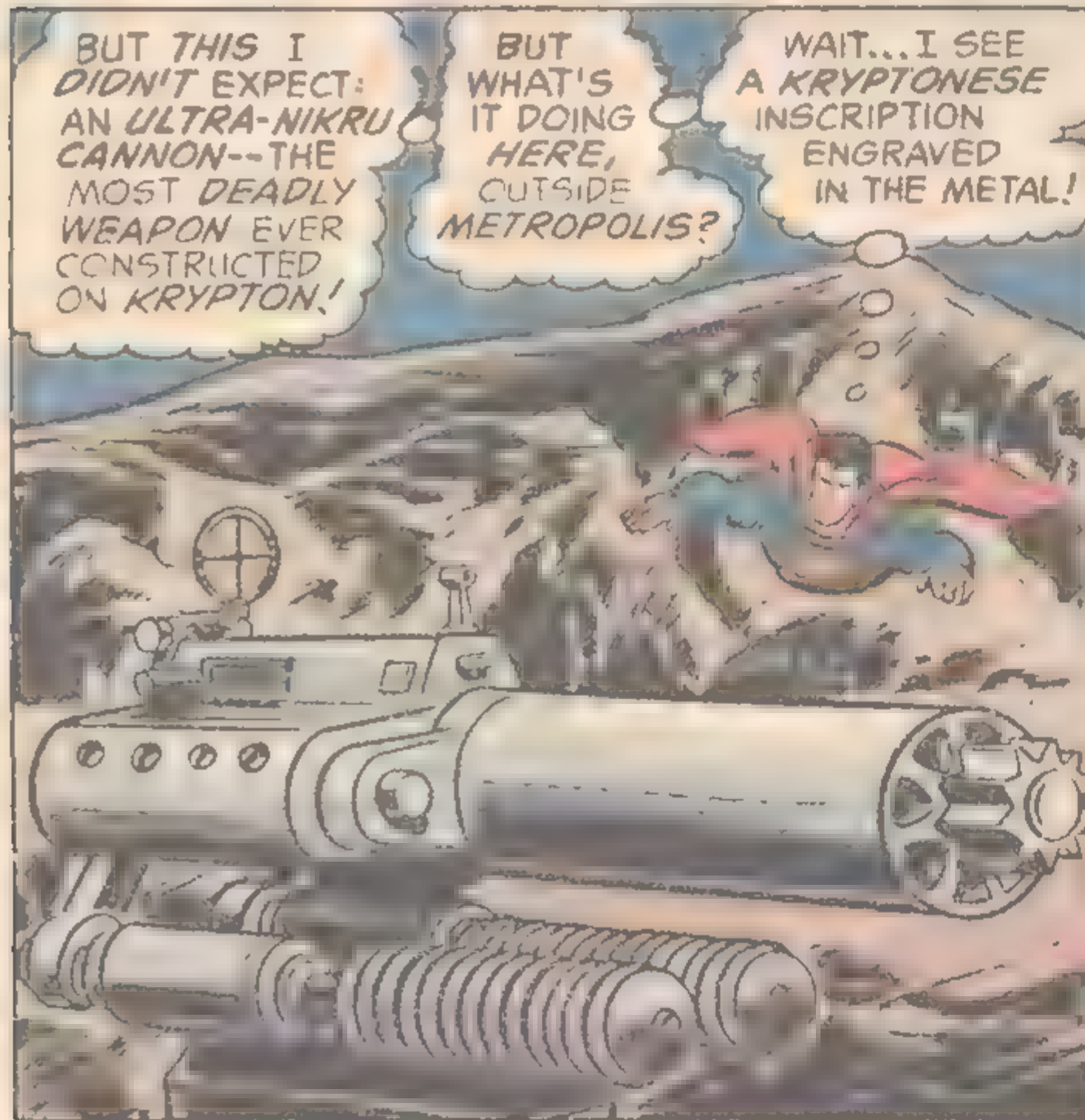
...SUDDENLY
FLYING DOWN
TOWARD THESE
CLIFFS!

WHAT'S THIS GOING
TO LEAD TO NOW--?



HUH? SOMEHOW I
SEEM TO KNOW ABOUT
THIS PRE-CUT HOLE
IN THE ROCK!

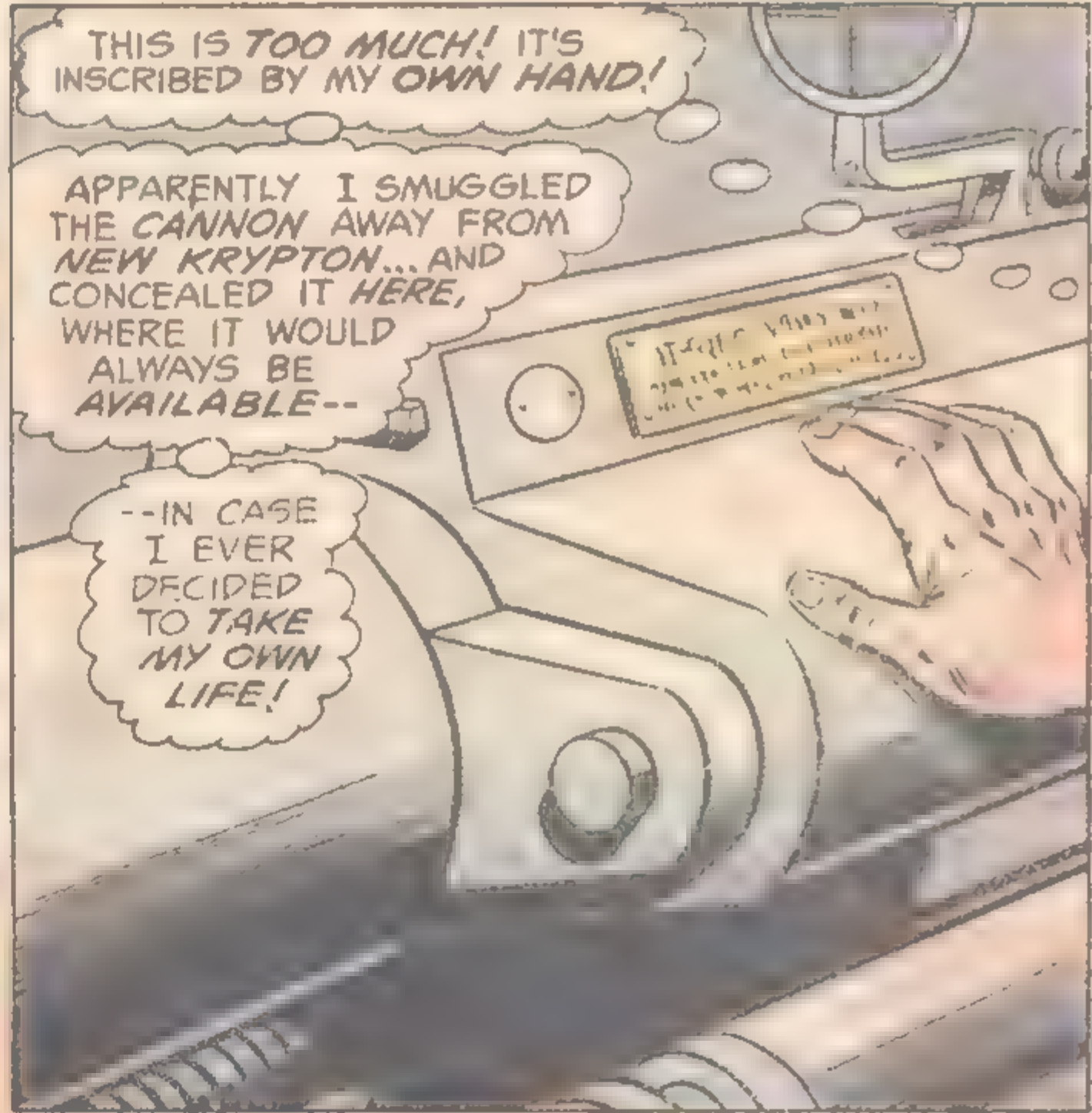
JUST AS I KNOW IT'S THE
ENTRANCE TO A SECRET CAVERN!



BUT THIS I
DIDN'T EXPECT:
AN ULTRA-NIKRU
CANNON--THE
MOST DEADLY
WEAPON EVER
CONSTRUCTED
ON KRYPTON!

BUT
WHAT'S
IT DOING
HERE,
OUTSIDE
METROPOLIS?

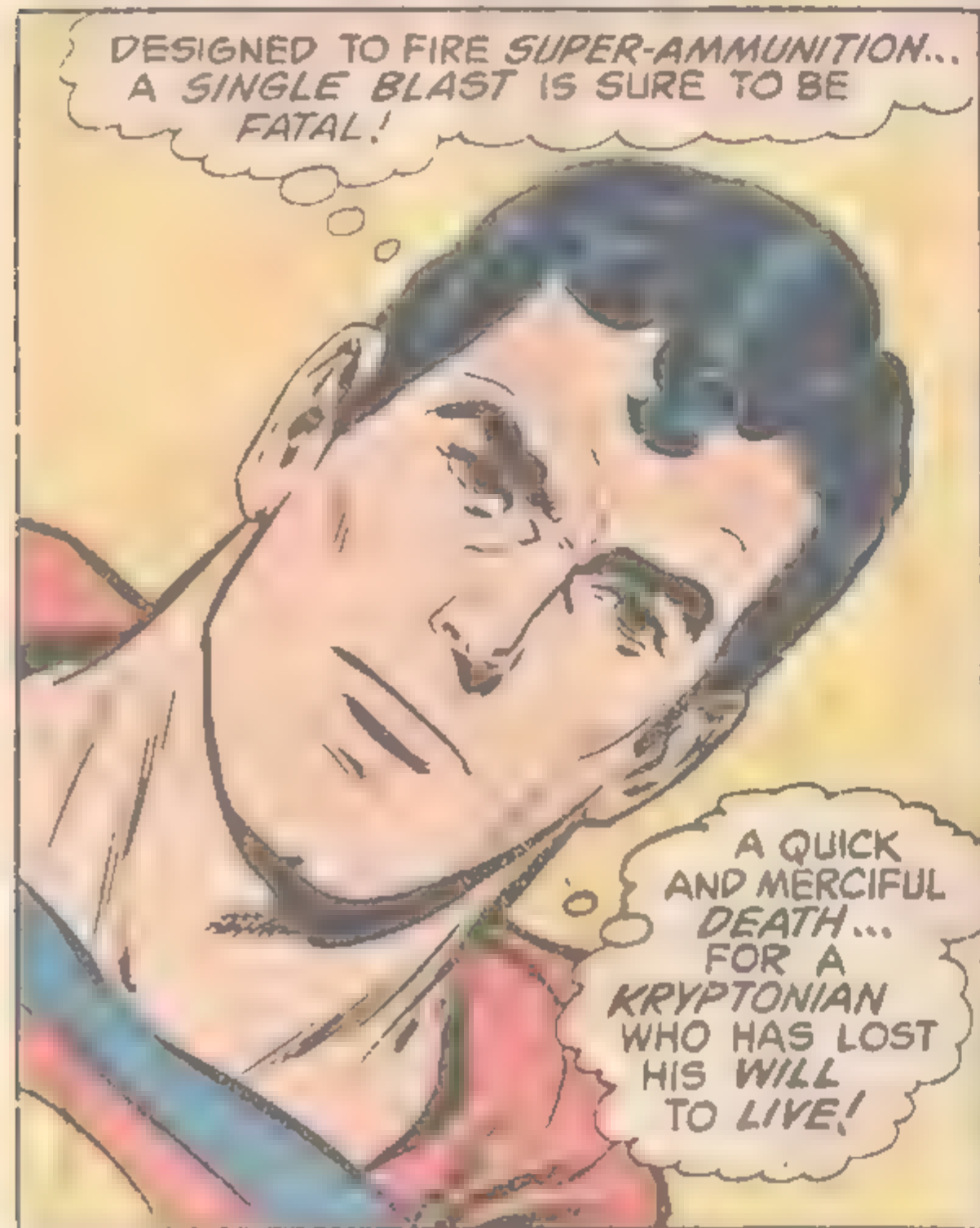
WAIT...I SEE
A KRYPTONESE
INSCRIPTION
ENGRAVED
IN THE METAL!



THIS IS TOO MUCH! IT'S
INSCRIBED BY MY OWN HAND!

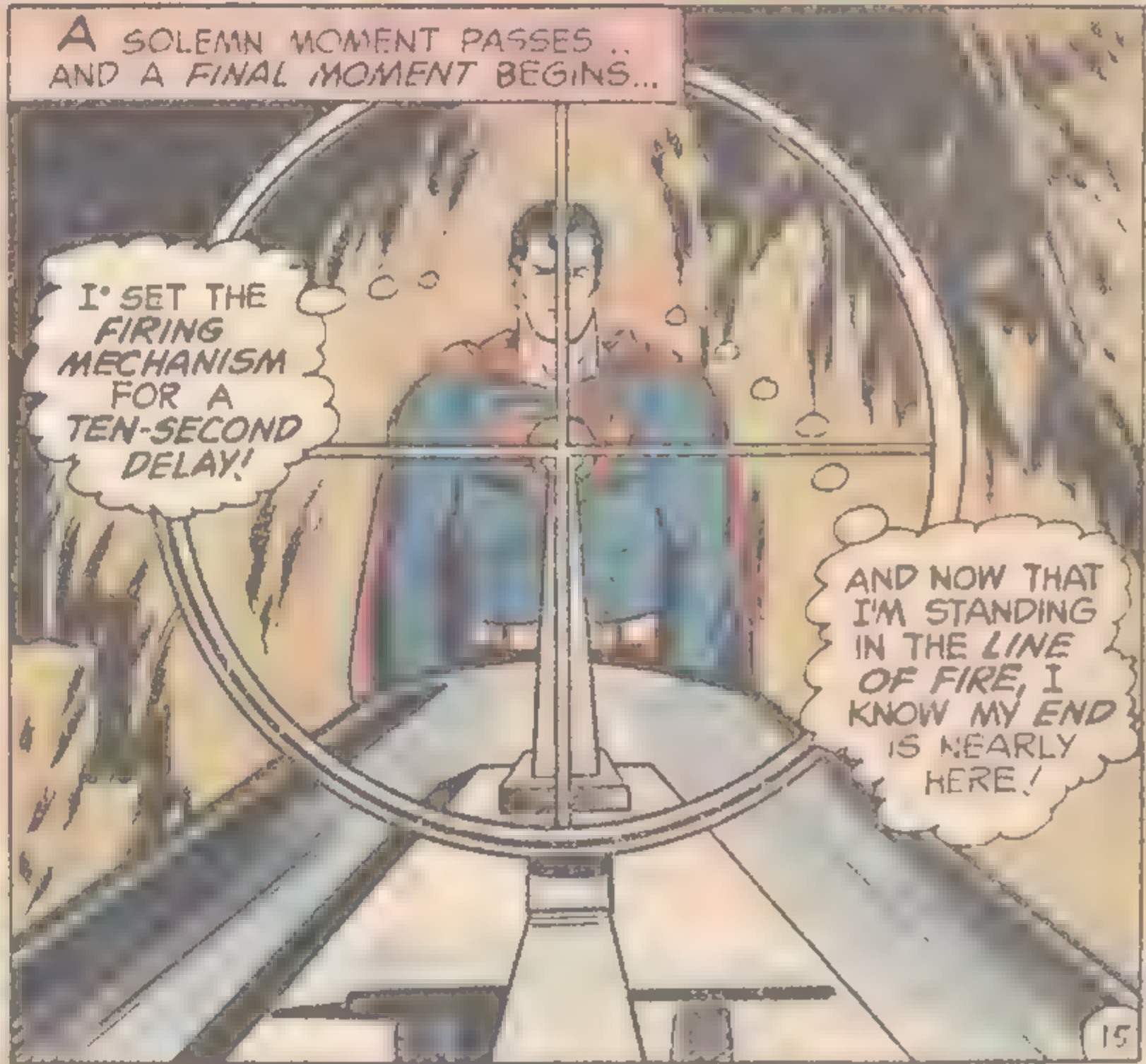
APPARENTLY I SMUGGLED
THE CANNON AWAY FROM
NEW KRYPTON...AND
CONCEALED IT HERE,
WHERE IT WOULD
ALWAYS BE
AVAILABLE--

--IN CASE
I EVER
DECIDED
TO TAKE
MY OWN
LIFE!



DESIGNED TO FIRE SUPER-AMMUNITION...
A SINGLE BLAST IS SURE TO BE
FATAL!

A QUICK
AND MERCIFUL
DEATH...
FOR A
KRYPTONIAN
WHO HAS LOST
HIS WILL
TO LIVE!



A SOLEMN MOMENT PASSES...
AND A FINAL MOMENT BEGINS...

I'VE SET THE
FIRING
MECHANISM
FOR A
TEN-SECOND
DELAY!

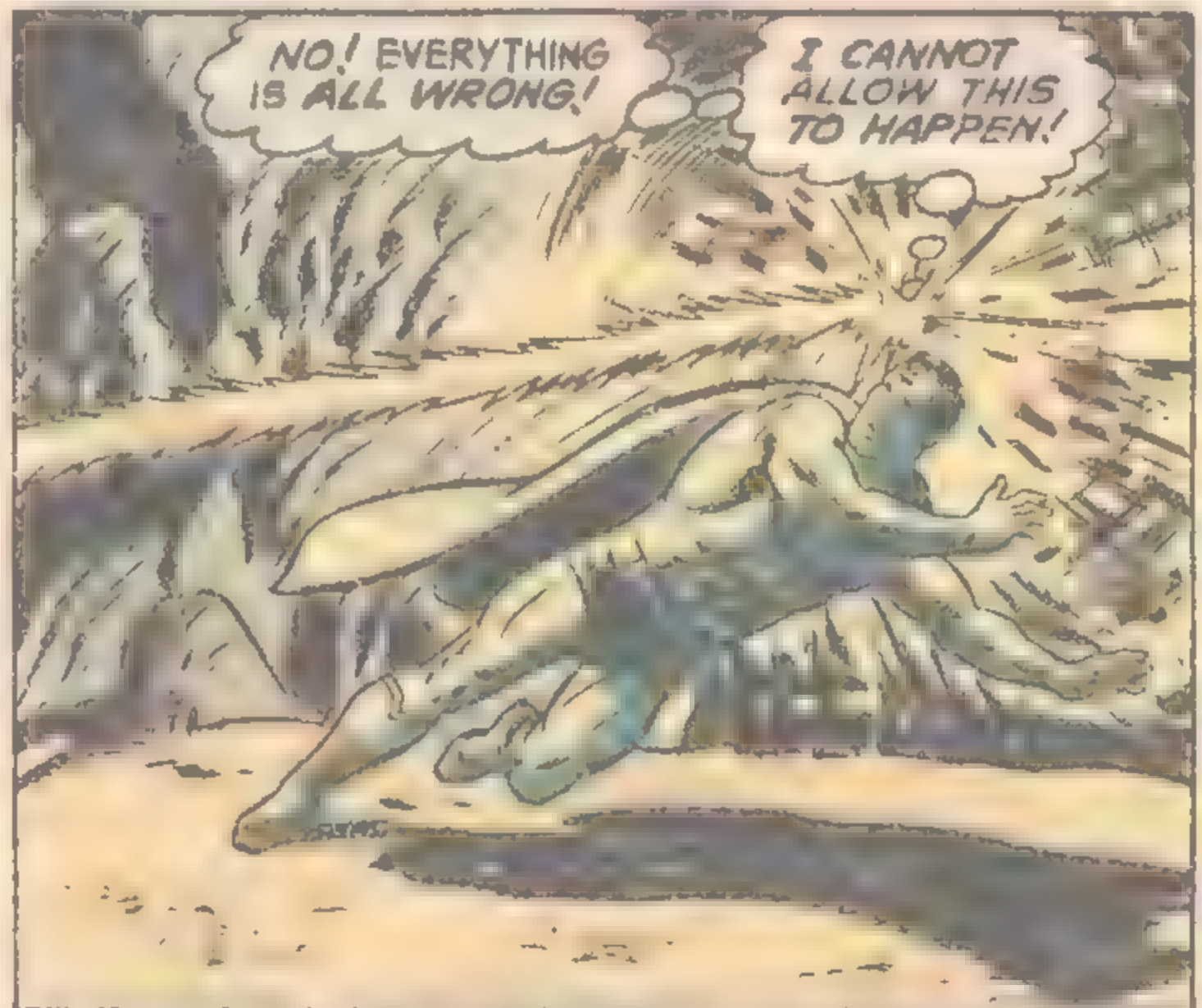
AND NOW THAT
I'M STANDING
IN THE LINE
OF FIRE, I
KNOW MY END
IS NEARLY
HERE!



ALREADY I CAN
FEEL A TREMENDOUS
PEACE OF MIND
WASHING OVER
ME!

I SHOULD HAVE
KNOWN ALL ALONG
THAT **DEATH**
WAS THE **ANSWER!**

EVERYTHING IS
GOING TO BE
ALL RIGHT...



**NO! EVERYTHING
IS ALL WRONG!**

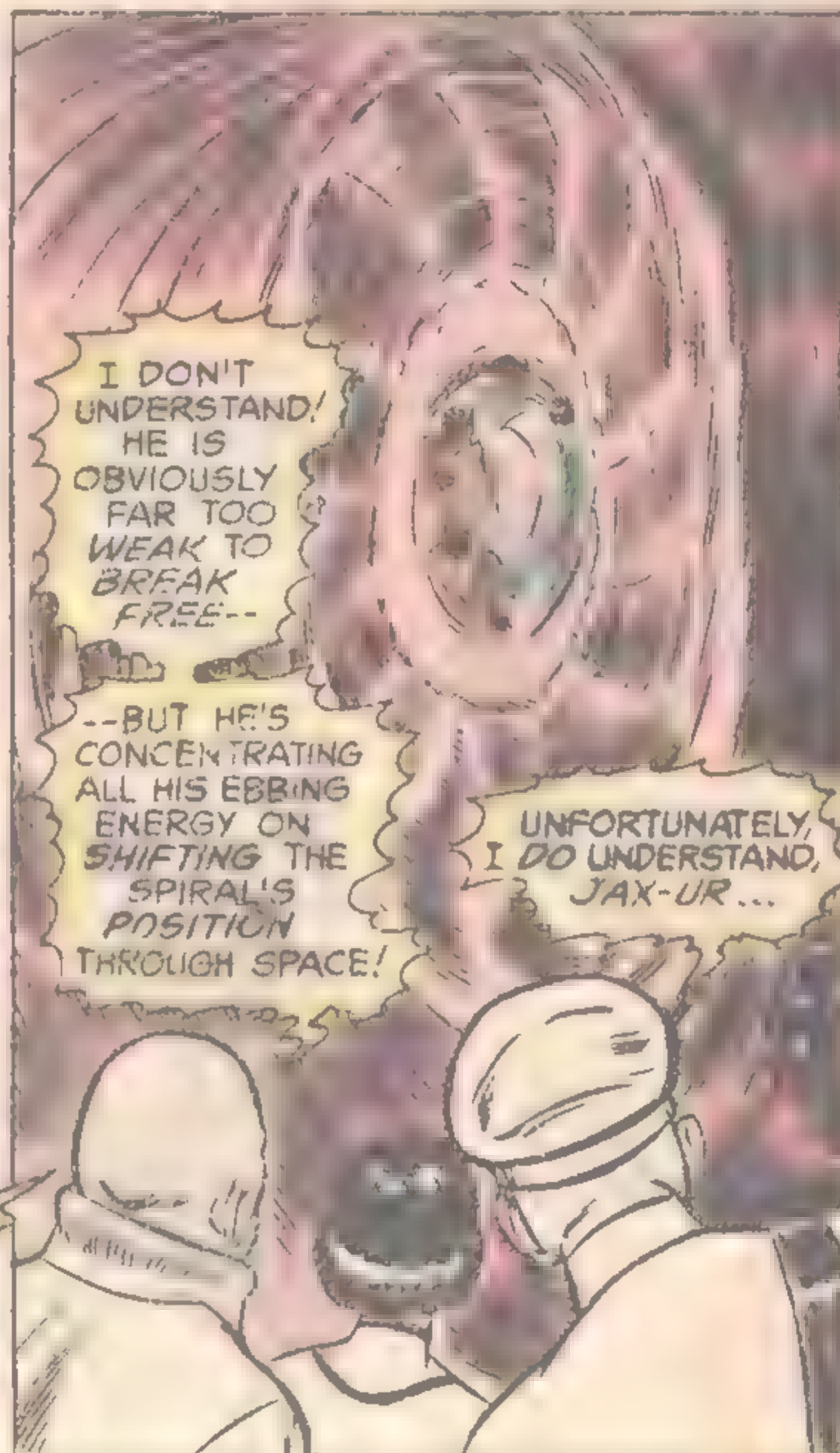
**I CANNOT
ALLOW THIS
TO HAPPEN!**



**DEATH
IS NEVER
THE
ANSWER!**

**FAORA!
SOMETHING
IS HAPPENING
THAT
SHOULDN'T--!**

**SUPERMAN
SEEMS TO BE
RESISTING
THE SPIRAL-
SCOURGE!**



**I DON'T
UNDERSTAND!
HE IS
OBVIOUSLY
FAR TOO
WEAK TO
BREAK
FREE--**

**--BUT HE'S
CONCENTRATING
ALL HIS EBBING
ENERGY ON
SHIFTING THE
SPIRAL'S
POSITION
THROUGH SPACE!**

**UNFORTUNATELY,
I DO UNDERSTAND,
JAX-UR...**

**...AND WHAT
SUPERMAN IS
ATTEMPTING IS
A BRILLIANT
STRATEGIC
TACTIC!**

**HE IS
DELIBERATELY
MANIPULATING
THE SPIRAL-
SCOURGE TOWARD
ITS OWN DOOM--**

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e time with no
s experience

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STRONG ARMS

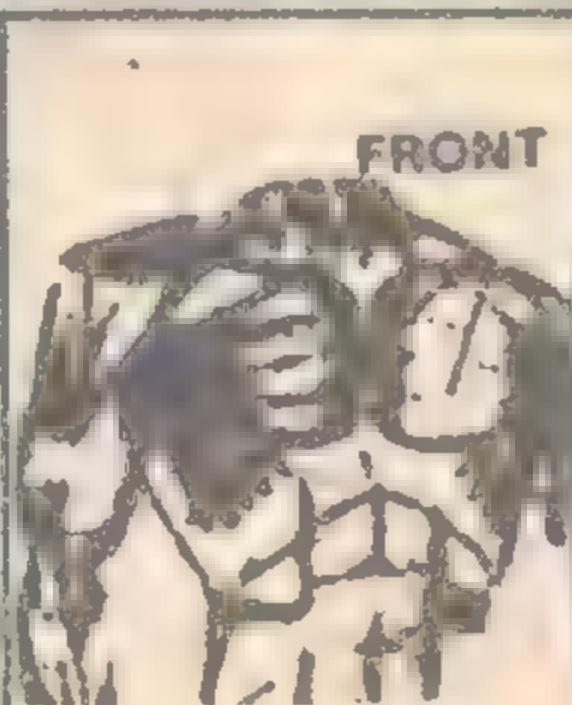
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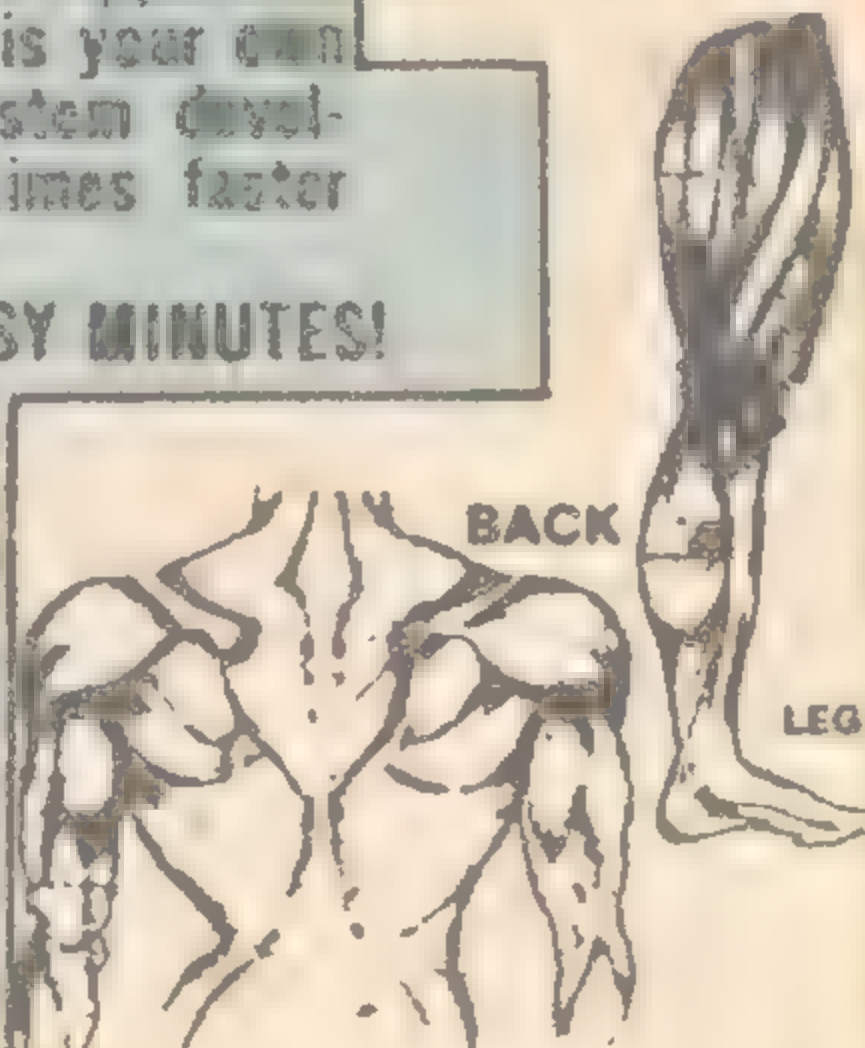
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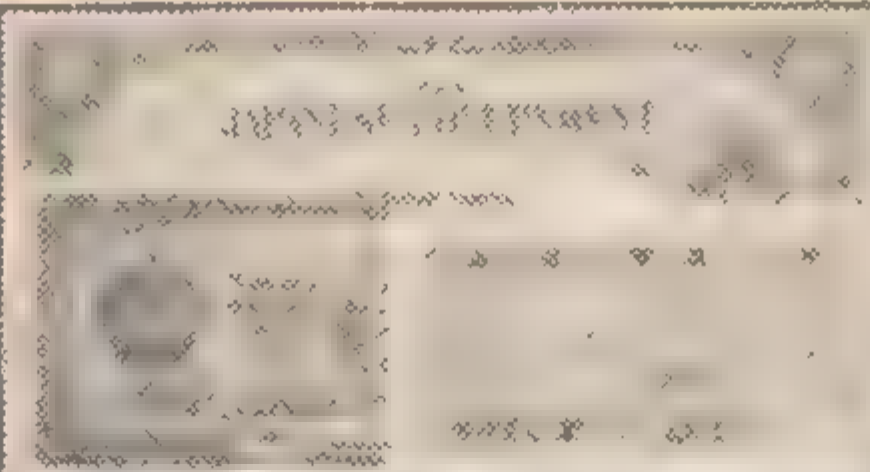
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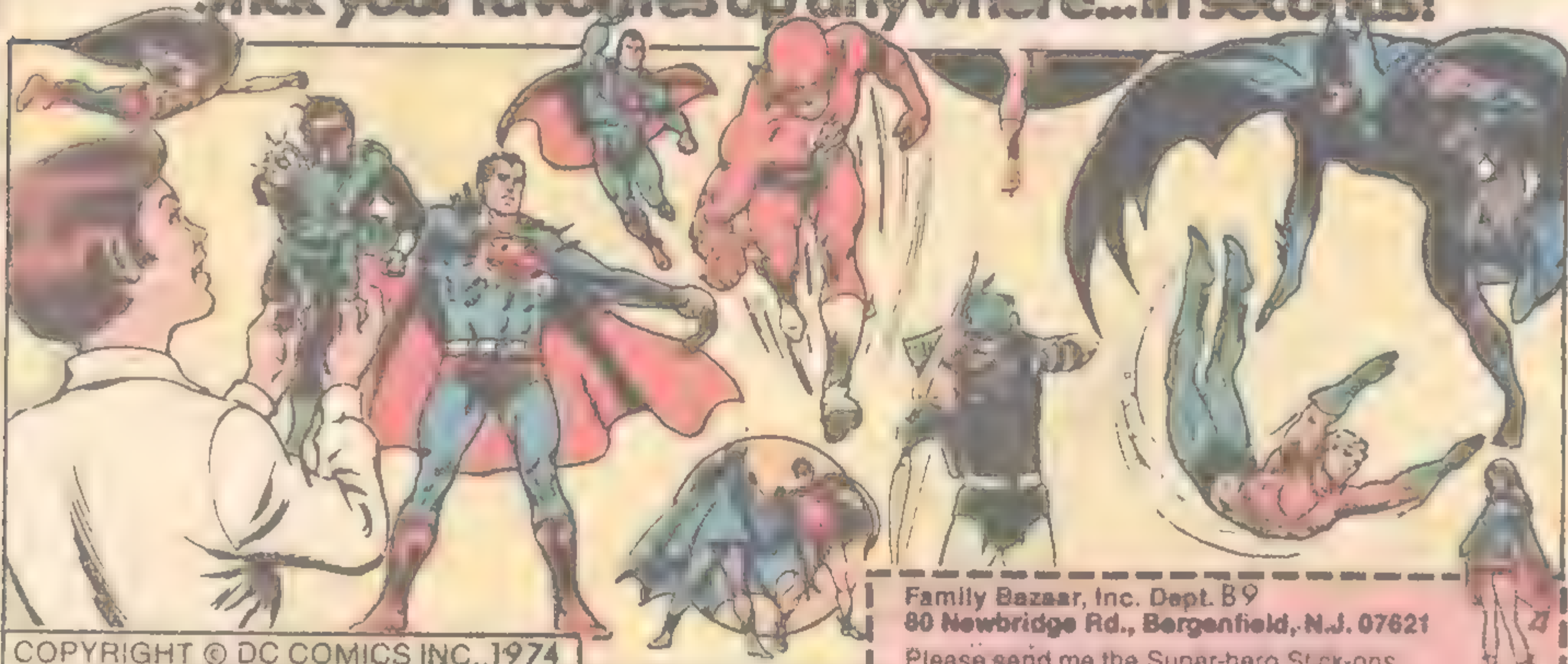


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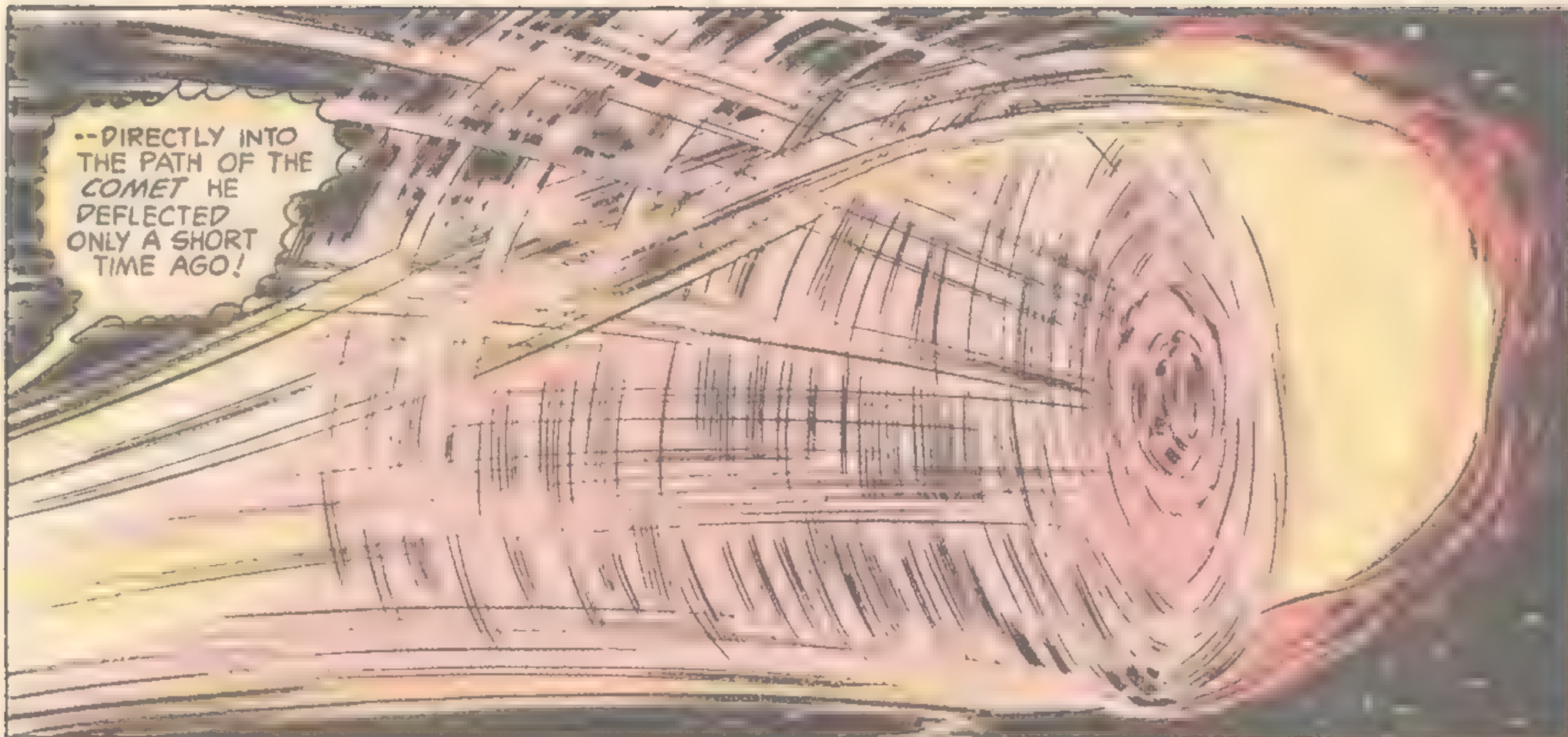
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COMET HE
DEFLECTED
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TIME AGO!

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COMPLETELY OBLITERATED BY THE AWESOME CELES-
TIAL FIREBALL--BUT A FAMILIAR FIGURE
EMERGES UNSCATHED...

YOU HAVE BEATEN
US ONCE AGAIN,
SUPERMAN! BUT YOU
MUST CONCEDE--WE
CAME CLOSER THAN
EVER TO SNUFFING OUT
YOUR DESPICABLE
LIFE!

CLOSE, JAX-UR...
TOO CLOSE FOR MY
WELL-BEING! YOU CAN
TELL THAT TO GENERAL
ZOD AND FAORA
HU-UL, TOO!

YOU MUST TELL US,
SUPERMAN... WHERE--
HOW--DID WE GO WRONG?
WHAT GAVE AWAY THAT
THE FUTURE-LIFE YOU
WERE WITNESSING WAS
FALSE? AND HOW DID
YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE--
WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE
INTO THE ZONE?

IT WAS
YOUR OWN
HATRED THAT
TRIPPED YOU
UP, FAORA!
YOU WERE SO
ANXIOUS TO
SEE ME DIE...
YOU FORGOT
THE PRIME
DIRECTIVE OF MY
SUPERMAN CODE!

I'VE VOWED NEVER
TO KNOWINGLY TAKE
A HUMAN LIFE--
AND THAT
DEFINITELY
INCLUDES
MY OWN!

NO MATTER HOW
MISERABLE I EVER
BECAME--I KNEW
I'D NEVER BE
ABLE TO DIE
WILLINGLY!
NEVER!
UNDER NO
CIRCUMSTANCES!

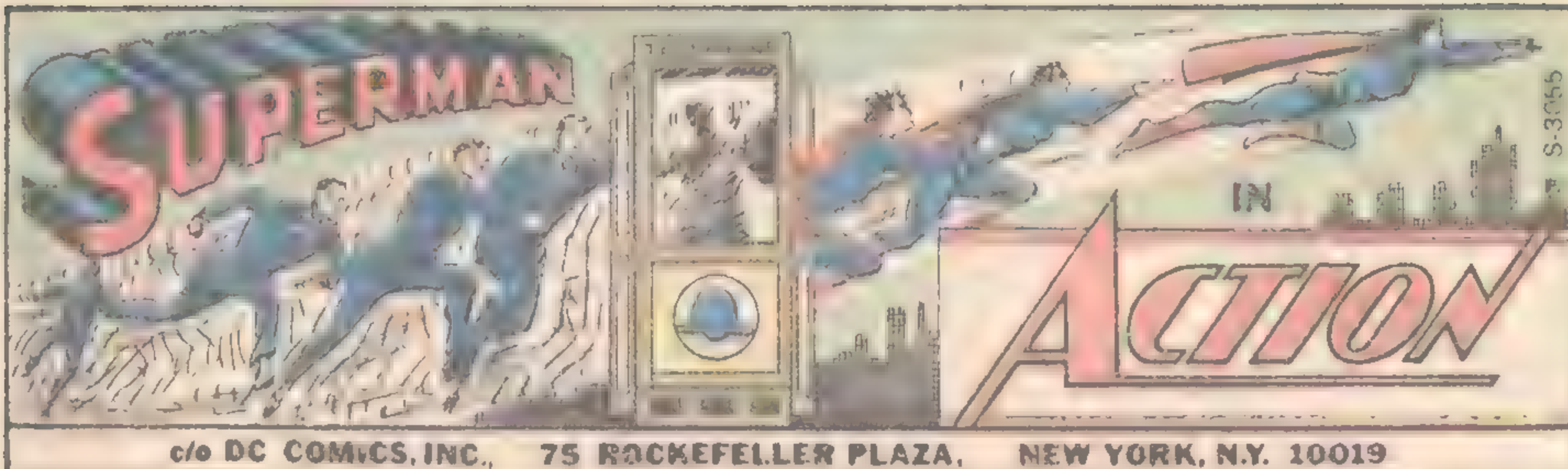
WHEN I REALIZED THE TRUTH, I
USED MY SUPER-MEMORY TO RECONSTRUCT
MY VISIONS--AND I SPOTTED YOU THREE IN THEM!
SO I KNEW YOU WERE BEHIND THE PLOT!

I GUESS
THIS IS
GOODBYE
FOR NOW...
UNLESS
YOU THREE
PHANTOMS FEEL
LIKE FLOATING
ALONG WITH ME
ALL THE WAY
BACK TO EARTH!

I'LL NEVER
LET YOU
HEAR
THE END
OF THIS,
FAORA...

I'M
TUNING
YOU
OUT,
JAX-UR...
WAY
OUT!

NEXT ISSUE! ARE THEY VISITORS FROM
SPACE? ARE THEY INVADERS? CAN YOU GUESS
WHAT THE ALIEN OBJECTS REALLY ARE IN
"THE METROPOLIS-170 CONNECTION!"?
ON SALE THE LAST WEEK IN DECEMBER!



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Dear Editor:

To tell you the truth, Cary Bates has really improved in the past year or so, after a brief mediocre period when all he could turn out was predictable and downright silly. Thus I can't possibly put into words how impressed I've been with his work on such as the "Secret Origin of Microwave Man," (ACTION #487) a relatively off-beat Bates' story.

So often a popular movie like Spielberg's "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" is exploited, much to my displeasure. Thus, when subtle care is taken in using several of the movie's elements, I couldn't be happier. The opening narrative, the capture of Lewis Padgett, and a characterization of peaceful aliens made for a reverent tribute to the movie. In general, Cary did a nice job of expanding these elements into a full-blown story in which it seemed Lewis Padgett was the star.

Actually, I liked the light-hearted tone of the story itself: the humor of the UFO seminar and the seemingly harmless and likable nature of "villain" Padgett. And yet the most memorable scene was the reappearance of the old Daily Planet globe, reduced to an ignored, however revered, landmark. Using the globe as a destructive force against Superman was a nice touch of subtle irony.

While I was pleased with the Atom feature, I still felt as though some new ground should've been broken; now that Ray and Jean are married, the stories should move in a new direction. Nonetheless, it was interesting to see Ray come full circle to *The Atom's* "birthplace." Artwise, I couldn't have been happier with the Saviuk/Chiaramonte team.

Tony Edwards
454 N. Formosa Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Seems nearly all the readers liked this issue—with some reservations, though, as the following letter shows.—ENB

Dear Sir:

When you consider the happenings in ACTION #487, nothing really earth-shaking occurred, but it was an interesting prelude to what's coming next issue. Although I can't see how Microwave Man (shudder) can be a formidable foe for Supes.

First, the name Microwave Man sounds very awkward and does not instill the least bit of fear in me. Micro-Wave (a la Air Wave) would have been a lot better. Second, the uniform of MM looks like something he "borrowed" from a Salvation Army bin. And finally, villains with powers originating from various waves are old hat. Superman has handled it before.

The art was the same, neither good nor bad, but I was satisfied.

I have a couple of questions about the story. First, when the Daily Planet was bought by Galaxy, I thought it still existed in its own building and not in the Galaxy building. I was rather surprised when I saw the globe as a landmark. Second, why was the story cut down to 15 pages?

The Atom story was quite good. I was never really turned on by Saviuk's art on GREEN LANTERN/GREEN ARROW, but his work on *Kid Flash* and now *The Atom* has really amazed me. Bob Rozakis certainly turned in a fun little script.

Anthony J. Pignataro Jr.
60 Broad St
Catskill, NY 12414

When Galaxy took over, it moved into the Planet building and the globe was removed. Since then, the entire Galaxy organization has moved into the new building, with the Planet on the eighth floor and WGBS on the twentieth. The story was shortened to make more room for *The Atom*. Sorry the series has had to be temporarily shelved. And just for the record, any blame or credit for the Microwave Man costume goes to Joe Orlando, who designed it with a small assist from yours truly.—ENB

Dear Julie and Nelson:

I could happily spend the rest of my life in the Superman Room of the Metropolis Library; I'd trade my entire comic collection for a copy of *The Story of Superman*. Must you torture us with things we'll never see? (Note: good chance to plug Fleischer's *Superman Encyclopedia*.) (Consider it plugged.—ENB)

But we inhabitants of Earth-Prime will have to be content with comics like ACTION #487. It's almost as good. The plot this issue developed slowly, allowing us a leisurely look at a number of super-stunts as only Curt Swan can draw them. From the opening to the mountain landscapes to the UFO and the giant alligator, we are treated to beautiful scenes of flight and expressions of power.

The story was almost as good. Cary's often at his best thinking of great things for Curt to draw. I really liked the UFO convention, Lewis Padgett's resentment at not being believed, the mention of the staffers' experience with aliens, and Perry's recognition of MM.

Beppe Sabatini
129 Gunson St., Apt. 7
E. Lansing, MI 48823

Say, Beppe—we see you've moved! We do notice things like addresses!—E. Nelson Bridwell

THE SECOND
GREAT

SUPERMAN MOVIE CONTEST!



Lara

24. Lara's occupation before she met Jor-El was . . .
- a) computer programmer
 - b) astronaut
 - c) usherette at a 3D video theatre
 - d) inventor
 - e) physicist

QUESTION TWENTY-FOUR:



Susannah York

SEE AD PAGES FOR RULES AND PRIZE INFORMATION



WEEK OF NOVEMBER 26, 1978

VOLUME 78 ISSUE 47

BOB ROZAKIS: EDITOR

ANTHONY TOLLIN: PRODUCTION

FREE-FOR-ALL STARS OLSEN AND LANE!

SUPERMAN FAMILY STARS IN FOUR ACTION-FILLED ADVENTURES!

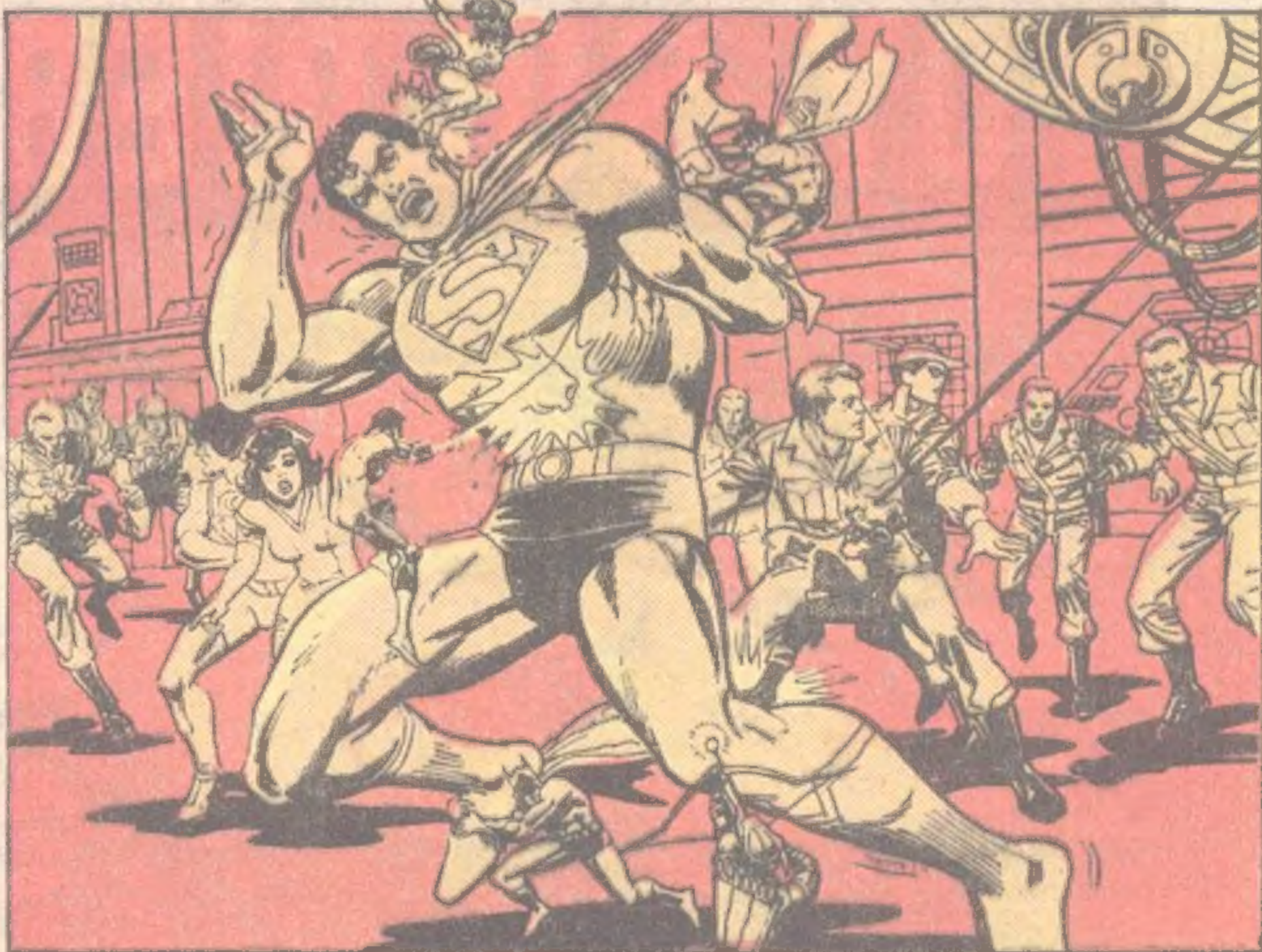
(DC, New York)—Jimmy Olsen and Lois Lane find *The Guardian* at last in "Armageddon Arrives Today" in this month's **SUPERMAN FAMILY**. Also in this fast-paced conclusion of the quest for *The Guardian* by Tom DeFalco and John Calnan: The Newsboy Legion and Speedy!

Meanwhile, *Supergirl* faces a "Nightmare in New Athens" as a Psychology Professor's experiment runs out of control and threatens the whole campus! Scott Edelman and Don Heck bring you this story of mental mayhem.

And *Superboy* must fight a teen-aged *Witch Boy* when Gary returns to steal a rare discovery by Professor Lang. Read all about this titanic battle in "When the Sorcerer Strikes" by Tom DeFalco and Joe Staton.

Then *Nightwing* and *Flamebird* meet the *Crime-Lord* in the final "Showdown," by Paul Kupperberg and Marshall Rogers!

Be sure to grab your copy of **SUPERMAN FAMILY** #194 when it goes on sale the week of December 11th!



DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF DECEMBER 11th:

ADVENTURE COMICS #462—A member of the *Justice Society* dies in "Only Legends Live Forever" by Paul Levitz, Joe Staton and Joe Giella; *The Flash* encounters "The She-Demon on the Astral Plane" courtesy of Cary Bates and Don Heck; *Wonder Woman* takes a "Voyage of the Sorcerer's Lost" by Jack C. Harris and Jack Abel; *Deadman* suffers "Sins of the Father" by Len Wein and Jose Luis Garcia Lopez; and *Aquaman* takes "Executive Action" in a Paul Kupperberg/Don Heck collaboration.

THE FLASH #271—The Scarlet Speedster becomes a target of "The Silent Slayer of Central City" in a Cary Bates/Rich Buckler/Jack Abel tale.

GHOSTS #74—Artie Saaf illustrates "I, the Executioner"; Ken Landgraf and Joe Orlando show why "The Specter Waited 13 Years"; and Jerry Grandenetti serves up "The Gem That Haunted the World".

JLA FACES MUSICAL MENACE!

(DC, New York)—Zatanna is searching for her mother, and only Anton Allegro, the mad musician, holds the instrument that can track her down! But how can the *Justice League* get it from him?

Don't miss this extra-length 22-page epic, "Murder by Melody" by Gerry Conway, Dick Dillin and Frank McLaughlin in **JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA** #164, on sale the week of December 11th.

WEIRD WAR #73—Steve Englehart and Ernesto Patricio join forces of an extra-length tale about "The Curse of Zopyrus!"

AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW:

ACTION COMICS #492 / **BRAVE & BOLD** #147 (*Batman* and *Supergirl*) / **GREEN LANTERN** #113 / **HOUSE OF MYSTERY** #265 / **SGT ROCK** #325 / **SUPERBOY & THE LEGION** #248 / **SUPER FRIENDS** #17 / **SUPERMAN** #332 / **UNKNOWN SOLDIER** #224 / **WARLORD** #18 / **WEIRD WESTERN TALES** #52 / **WONDER WOMAN** #252

ASK THE ANSWER MAN

Q: Why haven't *Green Arrow*, *J'onn J'onzz* or *Captain Comet* been given a shot in **SHOWCASE**?—Mike Dascani. A: **SHOWCASE** has been discontinued.

Q: Will *Speedy*, *Wonder Girl*, *Sandman*, *Kid Eternity* or *Elongated Man* be getting regular spots anywhere?—Duane Simolke. A: *Speedy's* been teaming with Jimmy Olsen in the past few **SUPERMAN FAMILYs**; *Wonder Girl* joined *Wonder Woman* in a recent **ADVENTURE COMICS**; *Elongated Man* appears regularly in **JUSTICE LEAGUE**; . . . and you never know when the others might turn up!

Q: How about a new reprint title called **GOLDEN AGE FAMILY**?—Andy Mayer. A: We'll pass your suggestion along to the proper decision-makers.

Q: Will you be bringing back *Superman Jr.* and *Batman Jr.* in **WORLD'S FINEST**?—R. J. Vazquez. A: Editor Jack C. Harris will have to make that decision.

Q: Is *Superman* going to fight *The Hulk*?—Timothy O'Connell. A: Not that we know of.

Q: Are there any chances of DC doing a **STAR TREK** comic?—Dave Schorer. A: Western Publishing (Gold Key Comics) does **STAR TREK**, so the rights to the series are not available.

Q: Any plans in store for *The Spectre*?—Jerry Wade Yates. A: Not that we are aware of.

Q: How about bringing back *The Human Target*?—David A. Jones. A: He's back and appearing in **DETECTIVE COMICS** beginning with #483.

Q: Will we be seeing any more **FAMOUS FIRST EDITIONS**?—Jerry Dahl Jr. A: **SUPERMAN** #1 will be on sale soon.



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